

QUESTOR

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MAGICAL ANIME:
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and Warlocks, Oh my!

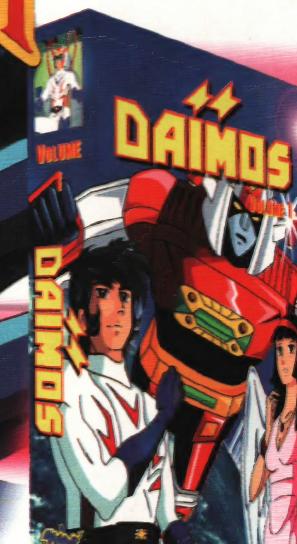


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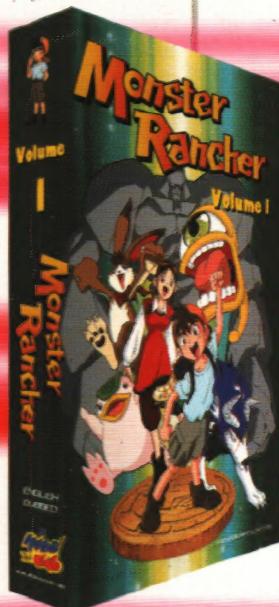
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GHOST IN THE SHELL



Monster Rancher

TRIGUN



ふしぎ遊戯 FUSHIGI YUGI

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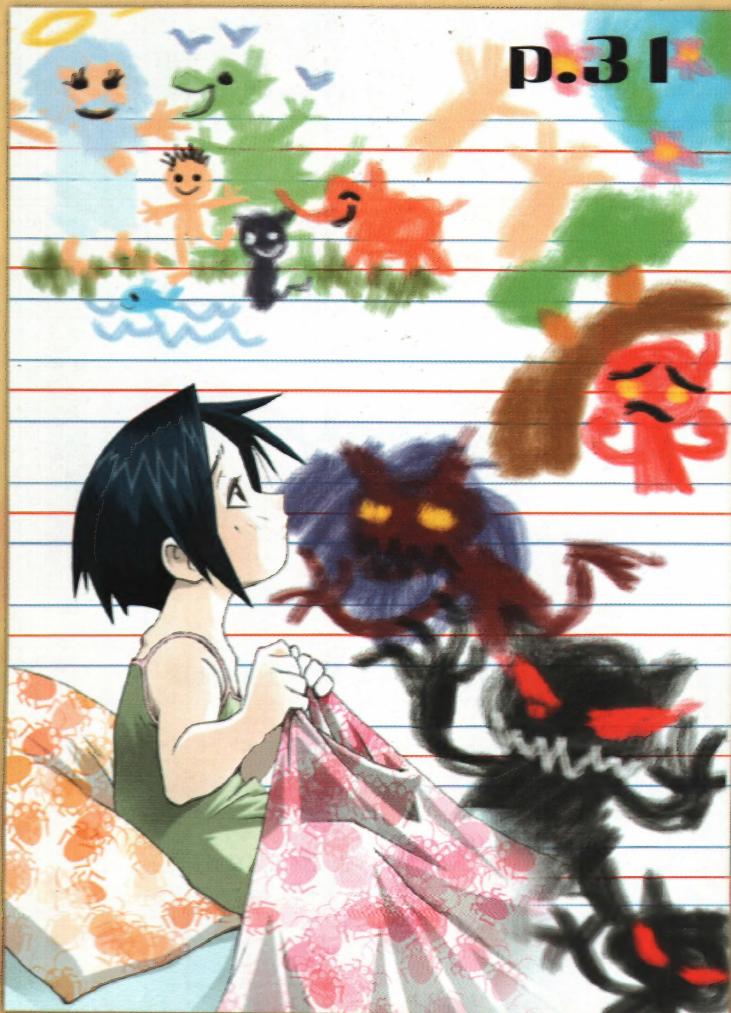


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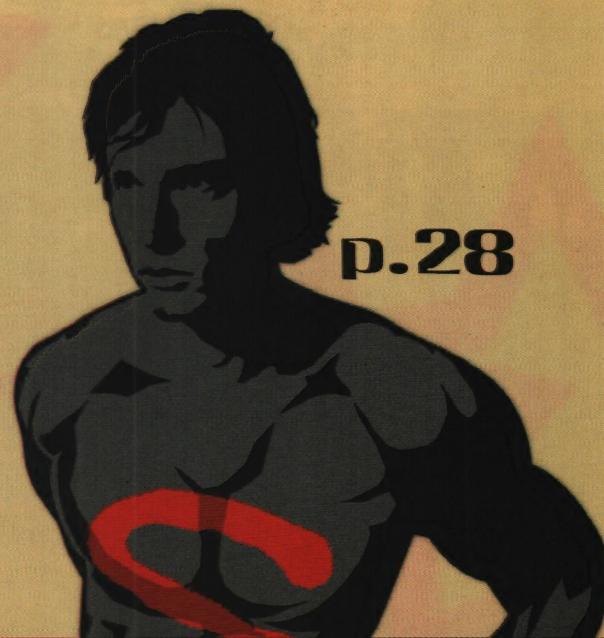
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QUESTOR



editorial ek ek

There's nothing like good intense but healthy competition. It gets your blood pumping and you get that generous dose of adrenaline to give you a rush and a high. It fosters camaraderie between the competitors too.

Last October 25 and 26, different anime organizations came together to celebrate something other than anime for a change. The Anime Sportsfest saw the different groups battling it out on the courts. Basketball and volleyball were the orders of the day, with one group sharing a pretty different kind of cheerleading for the competitors and the crowd. Oh, and there was cosplay too.

Questor was invited to cover the event. And we had another special reason to be there, as well. We went to cheer on our friends at **Anime-Club** (plus, **Questor**'s own Igor Cabbab) who were invited to play under the Cosplayer's World umbrella.

Here are the results of the competition:

Basketball

Champion: Cosplayer's World

Runner-up: OAV Cosplayer's Group

3rd place: Yaoi Dudes

4th place: WAA

Volleyball:

Champion: OAV Cosplayer's Group

Runner-up: Cosplayer's World

3rd place: Yaoi Dudes

4th place: WAA

Congratulations to the winners. To the losers, *ganbatte*, I'm sure you'll do your best next time. Everyone had a good time and deserves a big pat on the back for a job well done. Now, when's the victory party?

Ganbarimasu!

Bambi Eloriaga
Editor-in-Chief



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Which Witch

Long before *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch* magicked her way to viewers' hearts.

Long before the Charmed Ones cast their first spell. Long before Harry Potter made kids want to read again. There was the hit TV sitcom, *Bewitched*, which told the story of a witch who married a mortal and actually liked living in the human world. This series influenced many other witch shows, especially those of the Japanese animated works. Its sway can be seen in the way many anime depict witches not as the traditional ugly woman in black clothes, but as cute, cheerful and extremely kind-hearted girls with magical abilities.

Let's travel the various anime covens and see just which witch is which.

Mahou Tsukai Sally (Little Witch Sally)

Sally Yumeno is the princess of the Land of Magic. Unlike most of her kind, Sally is fascinated with the lives of humans so much so that she decides to covertly live among them. She solves the problems in her new neighborhood through magic, although she is always careful to keep her magical abilities a secret. Her incantation goes "Mahariku Maharita Yanbayaran".

Mahou Tsukai Chappy (Little Witch Chappy)

Chappy Hanst Charles Grimm And Aesop Et Cetera was introduced on Japanese TV in 1972 via the fifth magical anime series in history. She didn't quite make it as long as Sally. Her show ran for only 39 episodes.

Her story is just like Sally's. She also leaves the Land of Magic for the human world because she's become so sick of the old customs of her people. Soon, her family sees how much she has in the other realm that they decide to join her new home. Chappy is known for being the first witch to use a wand and to battle a villain (Satan). Her special chant is "Abura Mahariku Maharita Kabura".

Majokko Megu-chan (Witch Girl Megu-chan)

Unlike her predecessors, Megu-chan, who came out in 1972, is actually sent to live among humans. As heir to the throne of the Witch



is which?

by Cecil Estrada



Kingdom, she must first learn more about life and hone her skills before she can claim her birthright. She is sent to live with Mami Kanzaki, a former witch who gave up her magic to live with her husband and her two kids. Mami casts a spell on her own family to make them believe that Megu is their eldest 15-year-old daughter.

In her new home, Megu encounters what it's like to have a family, to pull her weight in a house and to feel a whole gamut of emotions — things she has never encountered before in her life. Megu also has to contend with a rival witch named Non who is also eligible for the throne and under the tutelage of Mami's rival. Non is a stuck-up girl who hates humans.

Majokko Tickle (Witch Girl Tickle)

Tickle is a mischievous witch who gets trapped in a picture book. Tiko, a little human, releases her. In gratitude, Tickle decides to live with the girl as her twin! Can you just see lots of magical mischief happening?

The original manga was created by Go Nagai, who gave us *Mazinger Z*, *UFO Grendizer*, *Devil Man*, *Cutey Honey* and many more.

Tickle the anime series began in 1978 and lasted for 48 episodes.



Mahou Shoujo Lalabel (Magic Girl Lalabel)

Lalabel started her original anime series in 1980. She tells quite a different tale from previous magical girls. She's a young witch who stumbles upon the evil wizard Biscus, who makes a fortune by stealing magical items from the Land of Magic and selling them for a high price in the human world. Lalabel accidentally sees him during one of his heists. She tries to stop him but ends up falling into the human world with Biscus, the loot and her familiar, the cat named Bira. She manages to get the items from the wizard but finds no way of getting back to her realm. She finds a home with an old couple as she thwarts Biscus' attempts at taking back the stolen goods. She uses a wand called Kuru Kuru Stickie in her fights.

Lalabel's show is said to be the first series to consider merchandizing toy magical items. It is also considered as the last of the first generation of magical girl shows, running for 49 episodes.

Majou no Takkyubin (Kiki's Delivery Service)

No anime fan would not know our next witch. Her name's Kiki and she was created by world-renowned Hayao Miyazaki.

In Kiki's world, witches are rare but are accepted into society. In fact, witches-in-training traditionally have to start a trade of some kind in another town when they turn 13. They can establish themselves as grown-up witches through their individual abilities, magical or otherwise. Some become fortune-tellers, some potion-makers, others, healers.

On a night with a full moon, Kiki sets off for her new life with only her mother's broom, her father's radio, and her cat-companion Jiji. Flying rather shakily from one place to another, she finally picks the seaside city of Korica as her new home. But what is a witch who only knows how to inefficiently fly her broom to do? Why, set up a delivery service of course!

The fight for recognition is hard. Kiki not only has to struggle against business problems — mishandled packages, rude customers, even the weather — but also emotional and magical problems — loneliness, shyness, self-doubt and the loss of her magical ability. Help comes to her though, through the growing number of friends she develops. There's the Osono couple who give her a place to stay, Tombo who has a crush on her and always tries his best to make her smile, Madame who is a grandmotherly customer and Ursula who always gives her pieces of good advice.

Kiki has become so popular that Disney decided to dub the series into English with Kirsten Dunst in the lead.

Yadamon (Yadamon)



In 1991, the tekkie witch first made its appearance flying not a broom, but a floor polisher. Her name is Yadamon and she is the princess of the Witch Forest. After causing havoc in the fairy's forest, her mother the Queen banishes her to the human world. She does this not only to teach Yadamon a lesson, but also because she has a secret passion for human magazines and books. She tries to keep a close lookout for her child, although it sometimes becomes hard since she falls asleep almost anywhere.

In the human world, people use extremely hi-tech tools and many animals have become extinct. Genetically re-created species are being made in an island called — well, Island. Yadamon finds herself in this place and there she meets Jean. Jean's parents, Maria

You're One Ugly Witch

Traditional ugly hags also make their appearances in some series just to create some mayhem for the good guys. Here are some:

Hagar — Lothor's spellcaster in **Voltron** whose hexes usually backfire

Witches 5 — evil sisters who torment the Sailor Scouts

Fortune Teller Baba — okay, so she's good but she's still a hog. She's the crystal ball-toting sister of Hermit Kame in **Dragonball**

her prison and she has

Akazukin Chacha (Red Coat Chacha)

Many otaku have become charmed by this little red riding hood lookalike. Akazukin Chacha lives with the wizard Seravi and learns how to become a witch in the school for young witches and wizards. There, they learn spells, make potions and generally have fun while they drive their teachers crazy.



Mahou Tsukai Tai! (Magic Users Club)

Meet Sae, Nanaka, Akane, Takeo, and Ayanoujo. They comprise the Magic Club of Kitanohashi High School. When in full club gear, they don pointy hats and capes, and use brooms (and a wand in Sae's case). They are also the only defense Earth has against hi-tech alien robots. Of course, it also has to be said that they're the only ones who actually give a hoot whether the robots should live with humans or not. The aliens are generally peaceful and law abiding (they actually stop at a red light!) that most people take them for granted.

But Club President Takeo thinks otherwise because they're aliens! They don't belong here! And, well, he wants to impress the girls in their club so he broaches the subject of investigating the alien mothership that looks like a giant cylinder. What Takeo doesn't expect is for Sae to like the idea so much that she rushes off at once to take on the mission. The other members have no choice but to follow her because even though Sae may be the only one with the natural ability for magic, she's also such a spazz that she tor-

and Eddie, are both scientists and their inclination has passed on to their son who is interested in astrology. The three humans welcome Yadamon into their family and that is when the trouble starts. The little witch princess has an insatiable curiosity that often gets the humans into trouble. Her guardian fairy, Timon, often helps her with his ability to stop time. Otherwise, she is on her own and she learns many lessons from her misadventures in her new world. Just in time too because Kira, an evil witch who was sealed under a volcano by the Queen and the great witch Beril years ago, has escaped

gets a spell halfway through a chant. The others arrive just in time to see Sae turn a robot into Panda snack food after the robots try to take away her broom and her beloved teddy bear, Jeff-kun. The robots are pissed. The kids barely escape. They think it's all a grand adventure afterwards and they want to do it again. They will drive away the aliens no matter what!

Ojamajo Doremi (Troublesome Witch Doremi)

Yes, her name comes from the first three notes of the scale. No, you do not write it as DoReMi, but Doremi. She first came out in 1999.

Doremi's adventure in witchcraft starts when she stumbles upon the Mahou Do (Magic Shop) and recognizes the owner, Majorika, as a witch. She points to Majorika and shouts "Majo!" With her secret revealed, Majorika turns into a green blob-like talking object and loses all of her magical prowess. She decides to take on Doremi as an apprentice in the hopes that the girl may develop enough skill to turn her back to normal. Doremi's two friends eventually find out her secret training and decide to join in the fun. The trio's training articles include colorful witch hats, elfin clothes and shoes, and, what else but brooms! Their rival comes in the form of Onpu who is an apprentice of Majorika's rival.

Love Witch (Love Witch)

Ai Anju comes from a family full of and ruled by women. Actually, the only boy in their family who is still alive is her twin, Yuu. She loves her twin so much and tries hard to take care of him because he has a weak heart.

On their 13th birthday, Ai is initiated into the family secret. There is a special DNA sequence that is passed down from mother to daughter in their family. They call this the *witch sequence*. Girls who carry the strand are sleeping witches. Their magic will be opened when they perform a rite when they turn 13. They have to open a perfume bottle while reciting a special chant. At first, Ai is excited about it and when she tells Yuu, he requests for her to show him some magic as her birthday present for him. Later on, Ai finds out just how bad Yuu's

case is. She wants to use magic to try to save his life but when she finds out just what she has to do to become a full witch, she desists. How can she go on when the rite requires for her to sacrifice her beloved to the Goddess? How can she give up the most precious being in her life? How can she offer her twin Yuu?

Witch Hunter Robin (Witch Hunter Robin)

It has been 320 years since the coven of power-hungry witches, beings (male and female) with supernatu-

ral abilities and use the Craft for their evil purposes, was defeated. Now in the 20th century, the mysterious organization called STN-J monitors the streets for remaining witches. It has a database of these individuals because witches have to register themselves to be able to live quietly in society. STN-J's mission is to ensure that the general populace doesn't know their existence and to subdue rogue ones.

Ironically, STN-J employs several witches and their newest member is a Craft user named Robin.

Robin is a firestarter, she can create fire from her mind alone. She's spent most of her 15 years of life in a monastery in Rome. She is transferred to STN-J to replace a member who recently got killed. Her first assignment fuels her insecurity. She manages to kill a witch via her Fire Craft and most of the existing members tell her that capturing a rogue witch is better than killing them and she should find some other purpose for her power.

Soon, she starts to adapt to her new environment when she meets more of her teammates. She also meets a fellow Craft-user, Hatori, an empath who has the ability to know the feelings and thoughts of people by just touching them. Robin also starts to hone her skill as her missions turn darker and her witch heritage is thrown into light.

Cecil Estrada, who was once sent to Earth, is from the Land of Magic.

References:

General

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- <http://kurozuki.com/takeuchi/witch/>

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Don't you just love it when the “-ber” months come around? Heck, the last quarter of the year is riddled with holidays and vacations. Christmas decorations have been on sale as early as September, and currently, it is mixed-in with an assortment of ghoulish masks, pointy hats, artificial cobwebs and blood, so you can do both your Halloween party and Christmas decoration shopping at the same time. As they say, only in the Philippines!

Although nothing much has really changed in the way Halloween is celebrated, the images of monsters, wizards and witches certainly has. Not so long ago, these creatures were depicted as things we ought to be terrified of. Media has definitely turned things around. Case in point:

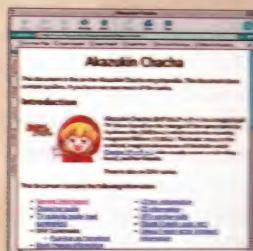
1. Now, monsters are defined as cute and cuddly. *Pokémon*, *Digimon* and *Monster Rancher* certainly had something to do with this. Monsters are now collectible too! Pika!

2. Many have always thought wizards don't have a lot of fun and spend most of their time studying spells and potions. Not anymore. Thanks to *Harry Potter*'s phenomenal success, there have been occasional news of owls being cared for as pets, and of enrollment applications to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

3. Witches of the pointy-nose with matching pointy-hat variety is passé. Enter gorgeous ladies with magical powers that do not require wands

and broomsticks. The *Charmed* ones have certainly broken through witch stereotypes and blasted their way to stardom. I love that series. *The Craft*, too.

And for this issue, we shall visit websites where witches reside! Let the witch hunt begin! Broomsticks not included.



the online Akazukin chacha encyclopedia

I love this anime. Well, for the most part anyways. The English-subbed version is top-rate and the comedy excellent. Especially those instances where disguised Teacher Seravi and Dorothy arrive at the scene to assist Chacha and her two friends in times of distress. I never got to finish it though, because the story became a tad more serious when Chacha moved into the castle in the later episodes.

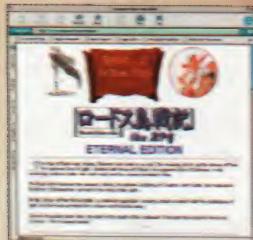
Highlights. This website is quite simple. Just plain white background and the contents plainly listed down. But underneath is a wealth of information about this little blond girl, including episode guides, manga and cd info, *seiyuu* details, even pictures of UFO catcher dolls and candies!

Lowlights. It's plain.

<http://www.tcp.com.br/~chacha/chacha.html#general>

Witch

Not so long ago,
these creatures were
depicted as
things we ought to be
terrified of



Record of Lodoss War

Record of Lodoss War is an epic fantasy anime, with an RPG-like feel to it (think *Dungeons & Dragons*). Among the characters is Karla the Gray Witch, who manipulates the other characters to achieve her end. She's powerful all right, considering she has been physically dead for over a hundred years!

Highlights. The site below is the most comprehensive one I have found so far, with info about the anime and the RPG itself. Very detailed character references, as well as helpful tips and downloads for those interested in the RPG.

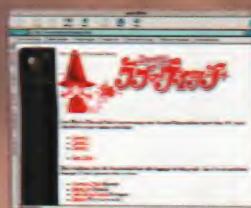
Lowlights. This site is dedicated to the RPG and general information about the series. For wallpapers and related stuff, visit other Lodoss sites.

<http://www.meta-earth.com/lodoss>

There are lots of other ladies in anime who have very mean attitudes that you can outright label them as witches, but that's not the kind of witches we're looking for. Teehee! Here's a little twist for you manga readers: a reference list of witch-related manga!

Hunt

by Nick Ballesteros



Manga reference sites: *Love Witch*

This site will be of use to you if you have the *Love Witch* manga and would like to get the English translation. *Love Witch* is relatively new; it ran from April to June 2002 and is the work of Naoko Takeuchi.

<http://www.kurozuki.com/takeuchi/witch/>



Witches 5

Witches 5 is another manga featuring – not five – but six witches. But two of them are so much alike that they don't count as two, distinct individuals. You got it, they're twins. These witches are gorgeous, but watch out. They got a mean streak in them.

<http://ilsevet.tripod.com/witches.html> — a character list

<http://antares7.prettyodango.net/minerals/witches/witches-anime.html> — mugshots of the witches, reminiscent of *Sailor Moon*

No wonder I'm getting *Sailor Moon* sites along with *Witches 5*. They've had violent encounters before! Read about the appearances of the *Witches 5* members here. Yeah, obviously I am not a *Sailor Moon* follower.

<http://joshieness.tripod.com/Witches5.htm>



And then some...

The Chibi Project

I know, I know. Chibi Moon of *Sailor Moon* fame is not exactly a Witch. But I came across this site which did tests and experiments on a Chibi Moon PVC doll. Very scientific. Check it out.

<http://www.adequate.com/ChibiProject/>

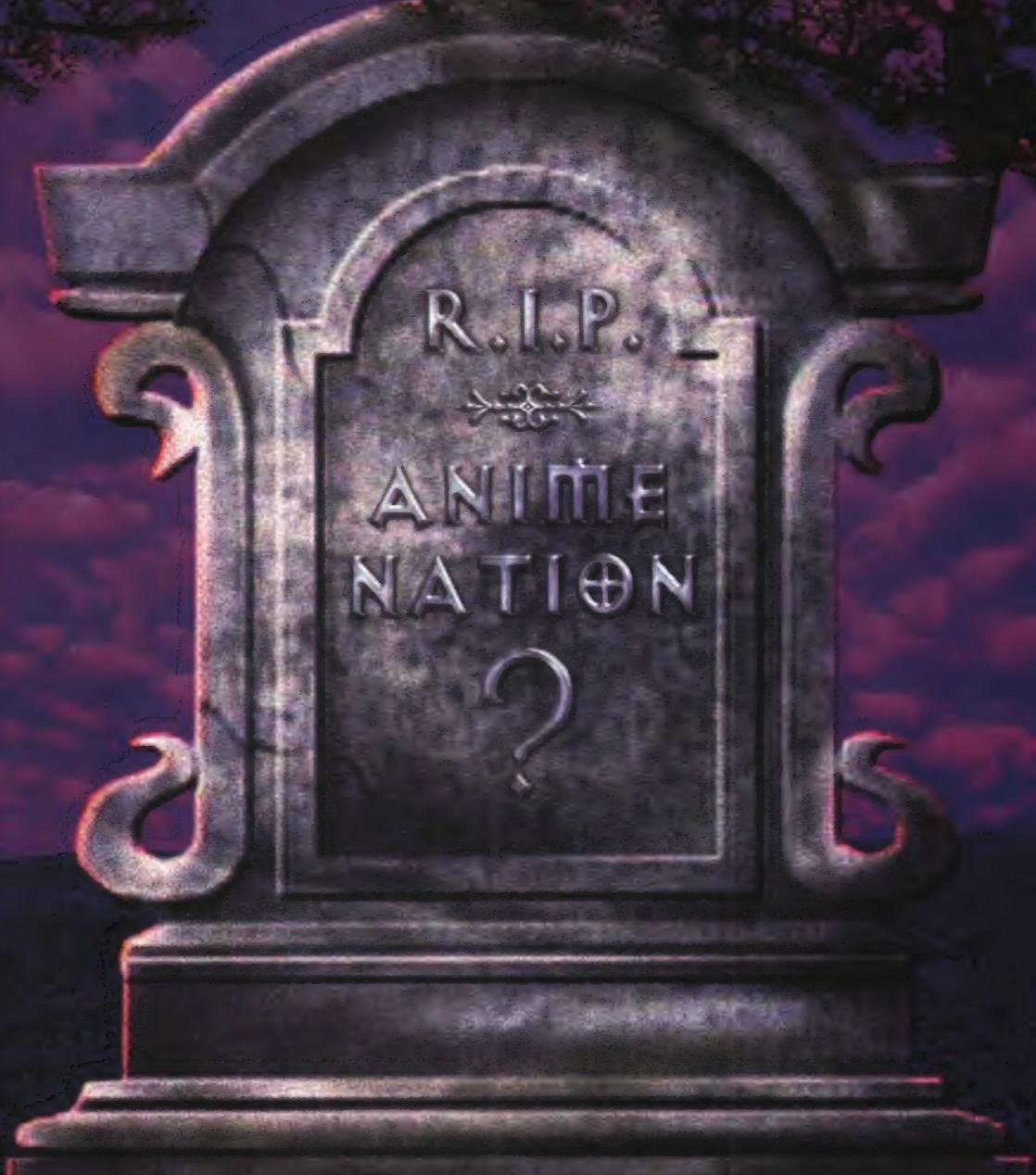
Warlock Nick Ballesteros sometimes doubles as a golden snitch during quidditch.

BEYOND BROADCASTING



W H E R E





DON'T LET THIS BE A EULOGY.

Ako ay isang anime fan, kasapi ng Anime Nation...
masugid na sumusubaybay sa mga anime sa araw-araw.
It'y nagbibigay sa akin ng labis na kasiyahan.
Dito ko natututunan ang halaga ng pag-ibig,
kalayaan, pagkakaibigan at dangan.
Bilang ganti, sisikapin kong itaguyod
ang mga anime sa abot ng aking makakaya.
Ipaglaban ko ang aking karapatang manood

at mag-enjoy ng magagandang anime.
Ipagpapatuloy ko ang mga adhikain ng Anime Assault
upang patuloy na maghari sa telebisyon ang anime.
Hindi ako aatras at ibibigay ko ang aking
isang daang porsyento sa labang ito.
Sisikapin kong maging isang tunay
na mamamayan ng Anime Nation...
sa isip, sa salita at sa gawa.

THE FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF ANIME BEGINS NOW.
YOU MUST MAKE ANIME RISE!



Mahou Shojo: Where the Real World Meets the Extraordinary

by Robin C Rivero
With research by
Johann Louie Ong





W

hat child would not want to discover magic? Even now there is, most likely, a part of us that yearns for magic still. The popularity of such anime series as *Sailor Moon*, *Card Captor Sakura* and *Himitsu no Akko-chan* from many years earlier is due in part to that yearning. Their stories tell of magic that transforms a plain existence into one suffused with special powers, good deeds, courage and most of all, wonder.

Series wherein a young, female protagonist undergoes a magical transformation belong to a genre called *mahou shojo* or "magical girl" anime. The history of the genre spans almost four decades. In 1966, animators at *Toei* became aware of the fact that an anime series created specifically for girls had yet to be created. After thoroughly researching the project, they decided to animate the manga *Mahoutsukai Sunny* by **Mitsuteru Yokoyama**. Yokoyama, also the creator of *Tetsujin 28go (Gigantor)*, would later reveal that his inspiration for Sunny was the American sitcom *Bewitched* airing then in Japan.

After a brief trademark tussle with *Sony*, Sunny's name was changed to Sally when the anime was finally released. Sally was a princess from the Land of Magic who left her kingdom to live among the humans she was so fascinated with. Through her magic, she helped those in need.

Mahoutsukai Sally had a total of 109 episodes and is significant not only as the first magical girl series, but also as the very first *shojo* anime.

Toei's second shojo outing was *Himitsu no Akko-chan* which ran for 92 episodes from 1969 to 1970. In this story, a fairy gives 11-year-old Akko a magic compact. Upon reciting an incantation, the compact enables Akko to transform into anyone or anything she wishes and throughout the series, she uses this power to solve the problems of those around her.

Akko is thus the very first girl in the long line of *mahou shojo* who is given the power to transform. She also does not have any inherent magic and receives it only from another source. The compact is another first too, being the first magic item in the genre, and it provided *Toei* with a toy merchandising opportunity that proved to be very lucrative.

More magical girl series would come out of the *Toei* studios at the rate of one per year, but the concept of transformation would not be employed again until it came out with *Hana no ko Lunlun* in 1979.

Those of us who grew up in the 80s will probably remember Lunlun as *Ronron the Flower Angel*. A descendant of the flower fairies, Ronron is on a mission to find the "seven-colored flower" that will save a kingdom on another planet. Messengers from that planet

have bestowed upon her the "Key of the Flower", a flower-shaped brooch that allows her to instantly alter what she is wearing. As she travels with a dog and a cat in search of the seven-colored flower, she transforms into a princess, a gypsy, a fireman, whatever is needed to aid those she meets.

The fact that *Hana no ko Lunlun* was set in Europe and not in Japan was a first for a *mahou shojo* series. Animation for this series also vastly improved over its predecessors as *Toei* scrapped its system of employing a different director for each episode from 1975 onwards.

After 1980, new players in the *mahou shojo* arena began to emerge.

Fantasy and Formula

One of these was *Ashi Production* who joined the fray with *Mahou no Purinsesu Minky Momo* (Fairy Princess Minky Momo) in 1982. Two versions of Minky Momo exist. In the first, Momo is a princess of Ferinarsa, a "Land of Dreams". She is sent to Earth to encourage people to once more hope and dream. This she achieves by transforming into different 18-year-old girls with varying abilities. At the end of the series, she is run over by a truck and reborn as a human.

The second Minky Momo, which began airing in 1991, can be considered a sequel to the first. It now follows the adventures of the reincarnated Momo who still transforms into older girls but who is now able to cast other spells as well.

Momo contributes to *mahou shojo* history by being the first character who can magically become an older girl and not simply "anything she wants".

Magical older girls would make an even greater appearance as *Studio Pierrot* produced one *mahou shojo* anime after another, starting with *Creamy Mami* in 1983. *Mahou no Tenshi Creamy Mami* (Magical Angel Creamy Mami) is about 10-year-old Yu Morisawa who receives a magic wand as a reward for helping aliens from the planet Feather Star. She only keeps the wand for a year, but with it she can transform into a talented teenager. This teenager is one day spotted by a music producer and in no time, she is repackaged as an idol singer. Yu calls the idol singer Creamy Mami after her parents' crêpes shop.

Part of the story's conflict lies in the warning the aliens gave Yu — she must keep her identity secret or else she loses her powers and remains as Creamy Mami forever. This is the first time such a rule was imposed on any *mahou shojo* character and it subtly gives the story depth. Creamy Mami has all the cuteness of earlier series in the genre but only this one has touched on the notion that with her new powers, a young child is also at risk of losing herself.

Mahou Shojo: Where the Real World Meets the Extraordinary



Studio Pierrot, however, doesn't elaborate on this theme in its succeeding productions, opting instead for a formulaic approach.

Pelsia, 11, is a Japanese girl in Africa. She faints one day and enters the "Dream World" where a fairy gives her a "magic stick". The magic stick allows her to transform into a 17-year-old girl who inspires others with her kindness. Her adventures are chronicled in *Mahou no Yousei Pelsia* (Pelsia, the Magical Fairy) which Studio Pierrot released a year after *Creamy Mami* in 1984.

Mahou no Star Magical Emi (Magical Emi, The Magic Star) follows quickly on the heels of Pelsia in 1985. Mai's grandparents own a troupe of magicians which Mai very much wants to join. After she accidentally sees a fairy, she is given powers to transform into Magical Emi who later becomes the star of her grandparents' magic show. Like Pelsia and *Creamy Mami*, *Magical Emi* is an older girl and this time she is a magician.

A year later, Studio Pierrot changes tactics with *Mahou no Idol Pastel Yumi* (Pastel Yumi, The Magic Idol). This magical girl does not at all transform but she has an enchanted cane and pendant given to her by the flower fairies. The cane can create pictures and anything drawn with it will become real for a short period of time. Yumi's plot thus reinforces a concept that is sometimes overlooked in the genre. The main character must not rely only on her magic to solve problems, but must also be creative and resourceful on her own. The time limit on her magic gives Yumi an additional challenge.

Studio Pierrot ends its foray into magical girl anime in the 80s with *Yumi*, but it will return with another series in the following decade dominated by *Sailormoon*.

Woman warriors and then some

Bishoujo Senshi Sailormoon practically set the genre afire as it aired in Japan from 1992 to 1997, and its popularity crossed over borders in the years to come. Based on the manga by Naoko Takeuchi, the world could not get over the story of the children of the Moon sent to Earth to save them from a great evil gripping their kingdom. The girls, five at first, would grow up

What child would not want to discover magic? Even now there is, most likely, a part of us that yearns for magic still.

and seize their destiny as defenders of the Earth and, in time, become saviors of their realm.

For the first time in mahou shojo anime, more than one character was given the ability to transform. Each of them also had unique powers and their transformation involved only weapons and armor, not becoming other people. Real strife and violence is also featured in the series in the sense that the young heroines figure prominently in intense battles. No other mahou shojo series before had tackled the epic-scale themes of worlds at war, hatred, greed and death. These girls are true soldiers; those who came before them were girl scouts.

Sailormoon can be credited with creating the magical girl / superhero archetype that would inspire future productions. A throwback to more classic mahou shojo, however, was also airing almost simultaneously as *Sailormoon* in 1992. *Hime-chan no Ribbon* began airing in October and ended a little over a year later. In its story, 13-year-old Hime-chan receives a charmed ribbon that becomes a pendant when used for magic. With it, Hime-chan can transform only into other humans and nothing else. She must also change herself back within the hour or the transformation will become permanent. The series also introduces other rules, some of which are original — she must not meet the person she transforms into — while others were influenced by prior series and given a new twist, she must keep her identity secret or lose both the magic and all her memories related to it. Later, she is given a palette that allows her to create a duplicate of herself.

Hime-chan was said to have done well ratings-wise, but related merchandise remained on many toyshop shelves.

Two years after *Sailormoon* was first televised, a new mahou shojo heroine appeared on the horizon. She was pretty, she was pink and she had a long curly tail. Not to mention a snout.

Tonde Buurin or *Super Boink* to local fans stood the genre on its head in 1994. The magical girl in the story transforms into none other seen before — a flying pig, complete with a cape. High school junior Karin Kobubu is the superhero Buurin who saves the day, snout, cape and all. She transforms using a compact given to her by a small yellow pig she saved on her way to school. The piglet is actually from another planet where Buurin's form is said to be the most tantalizing.

Like other magical girls, Karin is warned not to reveal her identity to anyone or she will stay in pig-form for the rest of her life. Twists in the story include her quest to collect 108 pearls in order to transform into anything but a pig, and a love triangle between herself, her crush and Buurin whom her crush is inexplicably attracted to.

Fighter maidens more in the vein of *Sailormoon* came from the series *Ai Tenshi Densetsu Wedding*



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Peach. Premiered in 1995, Wedding Peach is about three 12-year-old girls who became part of the ancient battle between angels and devils. They are selected by a high-ranking angel to help protect our world and at the same time recover four powerful talismans lost on Earth many years ago.

Two transformation sequences set the girls of Wedding Peach apart from other mahou shojo. To fight the devils, they must first attune themselves with the power of love; hence in the first stage of their transformation, they don wedding gowns. It is in the second stage that they wear battle armor.

Character designer **Kazuko Tadano** worked on both Wedding Peach and Sailormoon.

Another 1995 release was **Nurse Angel Ririka SOS**. Ririka is a 10-year-old with a nurse's cap imbued with alien powers. When she wears it, she becomes the legendary nurse angel who saves lives in more ways than one. This series is notable for being the first in the genre to show a little girl change only her costume in her transformation. Prior to this, most young protagonists transformed into teenagers while the costume-change was reserved for teenage leads.

Yet another mahou shojo to break into the scene in 1995 was **Kaitou St Tail**, which some of you will remember seeing locally as **Sweet Tales of St Tail**. This series is a break away from the fighter mold as Meimi transforms into the thief St Tail, a hero of the Robin Hood sort who steals from the rich and cold-hearted in order to help the poor. The saint reference is related to the setting of the story, a Catholic school, and the fact that a nun in training is St Tail's friend and accomplice.

Finally, in 1996, amidst the ever-growing fanbase of Sailormoon, a full-fledged parody of the mahou shojo genre came forth in **Mahou Shojo Pretty Sammy** (Magical Girl Pretty Sammy). Actually a spin-off of the Tenchiverse, Pretty Sammy stars Sasami who in this story is not a princess of Jurai but an ordinary little girl given powers to save the world. Unlike other magical girls, Sammy is plainly uncomfortable with her powers and does not hide her embarrassment at having to transform into a scantily clad older girl. It

Their stories tell of magic that transforms a plain existence into one suffused with special powers, good deeds, courage and most of all, wonder.

doesn't help that the incantation she has to call out for her transformation is, "Jugeemu Jugeemu Gokou no Surikire! Sammy Davis Broiler Chicken!"

Silliness is a key element of Pretty Sammy and the aim of all the teasing and hee-hawing is not to insult its predecessors, but simply to have fun.

Post-Sailormoon: The Next Generation

1998 saw the return of Studio Pierrot with **Mahou no Stage Fancy Lala** (Fancy Lala, the Magical Stage). Fancy Lala has elements reminiscent of Studio Pierrot's earlier work. Nine-year-old Miho has a magic pen and sketchbook that bring to life whatever she draws. What she draws are the fashions and accessories worn by the 15-year-old girl she transforms into, pretty idol singer Lala. The series had 26 episodes.

Towards the end of the year, another hugely successful mahou shojo anime made its debut — **Card Captor Sakura**.

Strengths of the series lie in its very appealing character designs and in its novel storyline. Sakura Kinomoto is a curious 10-year-old who stumbles on an ancient book in her basement. The book contains powerful cards of elemental magic sealed eons ago by the ancient wizard Clow Reed. Unfortunately, Sakura sets the cards free and the guardian of the book, aware that he has failed in his duties, compels Sakura to retrieve them all. She must do so before the magic of the cards destroys the world as she knows it.

In the beginning, Sakura merely captures the cards (hence the title of the series) with a Key given by the guardian, Keroberos. By the second part of the story, Sakura has come into possession of a wand that gives her the ability to channel magic that will change the cards into "Sakura cards", giving her complete control over their power. There are, however, forces at work against her, and she must face them with all the strength and courage a 10 year old girl can muster.

With its solid narrative and well-developed characters, Card Captor Sakura succeeds in portraying all the charm and concerns of childhood, while the basic elements of the classic hero quest make its story even more poignant. Like the heroes of old, Sakura embarks on a journey, a metaphorical one, at the end of which she discovers the limits to what she is capable of, as well as comes to understand that which she values above all.

The battle between good and evil shifts back to the angels and devils in **Kamikaze Kaitou Jeanne** whose adventures began in 1999. High school gymnastics champ, Maron Kusakabe is really the reincarnation of St Joan of Arc, or Sainte Jeanne d'Arc in French. At night, through the help of an angel named Finn, she transforms into Jeanne who initially appears

to be an art thief. In truth, she fights demons whose new MO is to ship themselves from place to place in paintings. The demons possess the painting's owner whom Jeanne exorcises by entwining them in her gymnastics ribbon. Images of angels appear in the possessed artwork upon Jeanne's victory.

There's a bit of St Tail going on here but there are also plenty of original touches. A growing fondness between Jeanne and her evil rival provides the story with friction while the divorce of Jeanne's parents, who already live overseas away from her, looms.

Throughout its history, *mahou shojo* anime has created characters who are fairies, witches, or who possess abilities like ESP. It is, however, the stories of these young girls who stumble upon their magic that appeals most to many. Their transformations, their powers, become a marvel viewers briefly participate in; because when magical girls transform, they allow us to believe in an existence that can be much more than ordinary.

*Mahou shojo Robin Rivero transforms into...
Johann Louie Ong!*

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anime
magical implement

Ofuda

by Igor Cabbab



You may have encountered these if you watch any magical or ghost anime like *Sailor Moon*, *Fushigi Yugi*, *Ghost Sweeper Mikami*, *Ushio and Tora*, *Devil Hunter Yohko*, *Yu Yu Hakusho* and *Haunted Junction*. Sailor Mars is the one who primarily uses them by throwing them at her enemies. Ofuda are sort of talismans and are more commonly used to attract good fortune. They can be made either of paper or wood with the name of a deity written or stamped on them in either red or black ink. Both Shinto and Buddhist temples distribute them to the public. Related to the ofuda are the *omamori* which are paper charms / amulets with the name of the shrine or temple together with the purpose / benefit of the charm written on them.

Special thanks to Takako Takimoto

Reference: Poitras, Gilles. *The Anime Companion*. Stone Bridge Press: Berkley, California, 1999.

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Ito ang paborito kong BAON!





Uh-ga-sha-ga-shaga, shaman!

As man evolved, he came to forget the spirits. He has acted out of desire. There are, however, some who can still talk with the spirits. They are the shamans.

Shamans have the ability to possess spirits and then utilize the power and skills of the spirit to fight. It is said that the greatest of Shamans will be called the Shaman King. The Shaman King is the Shaman who can unite with the *Seirei no Ou*, or King of Spirits, to lead the world back to the right path. The Shaman King will become the world's savior and reinstate the harmony that once existed. Competition is fierce; there are even competitions to see who is the strongest. All in the quest to become the Shaman King.

This is the story of Yoh Asakura, a shaman on a quest to become the Shaman King. He is one of the gifted few who can see the spirit world and speak to the dead. Together with Manta and Anna, he must withstand the intense training, and all the adventures that go with it, in this world of spirits and those who abuse the power.

—Anou "I see dead people" Anito

Shaman King © 1998 By
Hiroyuki Takei / Shueisha Inc.
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She's a Lady, Lady Lady, Lady, Lady...

Jun Fudo is a teacher who accompanied her female students on an outdoor trip. She begins having unusual nightmares. To make matters worse, the nearby chalet houses rambunctious and rowdy martial artists who harass and bother Jun and her students. As it turns out, they weren't real martial artists but demons! Having reverted to their true horrible forms, they break into the girl's lodging house and rape the girls and Jun too.

As Jun feels as if she is being torn apart, she undergoes a horrifying transformation. She turns into a terrifying demon-woman hybrid! As Devilman Lady, she overcomes the demons and saves the remaining girls.

A mysterious woman named Ran Asuka then makes an appearance and claims that it was she who awakened the sleeping beast within Jun.

Jun is confused but the sudden appearance of her father Professor Fudo (who was supposedly in the US) sheds light on the matter.

According to Professor Fudo, a strange phenomenon known as the "Devil Beast Syndrome" started a couple of years ago. Some inhabitants of a shantytown transformed into demons and raped women before eating them up. The "Devil Beasts" gained enhanced strength but lost everything of their humanity. Professor Fudo's theory is that the transformation is actually the next stage in human evolution and nature's way of dealing with human overpopulation.

Jun is just one of a few genetically engineered people who could retain their conscience, memories and intelligence despite undergoing the devil beast transformation. Devilman Lady may be the only hope in the prevention of a bleak future for humanity.

Devilman Lady is a spin-off created by Go Nagai of his own popular violent anime / manga horror classic *Devilman*. What would happen to humankind if Devilman were a woman? The male Devilman now becomes the female Devilman Lady. Akira Fudo is now Jun Fudo. Ryo Asuka is now Ran Asuka. In the manga version, Jun is a school teacher while in the anime she is a fashion model seeking her fortune in Tokyo. But unlike Devilman, Devilman Lady has a Human Alliance (to which Ran and Jun belong) to deal with the demon beast threat.

— Amon Black Mass



What Makes us Human

The prequel to *Bubblegum Crisis* is a series called *AD Police Files*. Set in MegaTokyo, 2027, *AD Police Files* tells of aggressive technological development resulting in the creation of boomers, artificially intelligent androids with the potential to free mankind from physical labor. Some are so advanced they even had vocal cords and body odor. Such advances can also produce advanced nightmarish malfunctions. The Tokyo Police Department (TPD) takes care of normal situations, situations involving boomers, boomeroids (humans with 70% cybernetic body part replacements) and terrorists are dealt with by the AD Police.

Take a peek into the lives of AD Police and TPD officers Captain Dieork, Leon McNichol, Jeena Malso, Iris Cara, Vanessa Bach and cyborg policeman (Captain of the AD Police Special Mobile Squad and Experimental Anti-boomer Battle-Cyborg Unit Number 1) Billy Fanword as they all deal with what makes them human. What exactly are people? Are machines capable of emotions? Are you still human even if all that remains of your body is a brain and a tongue? Are you still a woman if what science says makes you female has already been cybernetically replaced?

The spin-off of *Bubblegum Crisis Tokyo 2040* is a series called *AD Police*. Set in Megalo City, 2040, *AD Police* tells of aggressive technological development resulting in the creation of voomers, artificially intelligent androids with the potential to free mankind from physical labor. Take a peek into the life of AD Police officer (certified loose cannon with a very abysmal buddy system track record in police partners) Kenji Sasaki, Hans and his colleagues as they deal with voomers and each other while a sinister master plan begins to unfold.

(Trivia: *AD Police Files* music credits lists works by Philippine artists like Identity Crisis, Lou Bonnevieve, Nonoy Tan, Rey Magtoto, Rene Novelles, Toto Gentica, Raffy Amaranto and Ed Formoso)

— Paradise Loop



Hanaukyo Maid-tai

Hanaukyo Taro is all alone. His mom died and his only recourse is to go live with his grandfather. As it turns out, his grandfather, now long gone, had left him his entire sprawling estate! Well, it's not actually just an estate... It's a paradise! That's not all, the estate is tended to by the Hanaukyo maid team! Maids, chambermaids, cooks, gardeners, nurses and security guards, etc... all there to satisfy Taro's every fancy. And to top it all off, every member of the maid team is sexy, beautiful, a specialist in her own field and, most importantly, at Taro's beck and call! They call him "master", cook for him, tidy up after him, schedule his activities, help him at school, help him study, help him sleep, nurse him to health when he's sick, bathe him, dress him up, and uh, well... you get the picture. Hmm, sounds naughty? It is... kinda. But there is one problem... he's allergic to the touch of girls! Unlucky fellow now, isn't he?

Attending to Taro's every whim are: the sexy triplets Ichigo, Ringo and Sango (they all remind me of Shampoo of *Ranma 1/2*), cute little Cynthia (who has a computer genius split personality named Grace and looks like Iris of *Sakura Wars*), headstrong security detail officer Konoe (who reminds me of Sumire of *Sakura Wars* and Motoko Aoyama of *Love Hina*), inventor and pilot Ikuyo (who reminds me of Kohran of *Sakura Wars*), Taro's undercover fake classmate Shinobu (who reminds me of Yukino Miyazawa of *Karekano* and Akari Kamagishi of *To Heart*), nurse Yuki (who reminds me of... er... someone actually) and head maid Marielle (who reminds me so much of Belldandy of *Oh, My Goddess*). There's also Jihou Ryuka (who reminds me of Souryou Asuka Langley of *Neon Genesis Evangelion* with a laugh that falls somewhere between Ranma's Kodachi Kuno and *Slayers*' Naga the Serpent. Hey, see a pattern anywhere?) of a rival clan who's after Taro-sama's affections. Hmm, a marriage between the scions of the two richest clans of Tokyo? Pweee-deh! Problem is, Taro has some feelings for Marielle, and her healing touch is the only one he isn't allergic to!

Mad maid maidens and major *shonen* fan service mayhem for each and every naughty little boy. Sexy and mature situations abound with some boobs but no pumping scenes in the Hanaukyo estate.

— Hanaukyo Hokusaï

Hanaukyo Maid-tai © M.O.E.





Kujaku-oh: The Peacock King

Thousands of years ago, a dark power was sealed by the gods of light. Hidden in a German castle lies a Neo-Nazi stronghold. Siegfried von Mittgard, leader of the pack of Neo-Nazis, is set to complete an ancient prophecy by becoming "The Regent of Darkness" and revive the dark power. He already has the sacrifice, a young mystic named Tomoko. All he needs is the mystical Dragon Orb. Once he acquires the Dragon Orb, no force on earth can stop him.

Kujaku, an exorcist in training, together with other heroes, are chosen to combat this evil and

prevent the revival. During the adventure, Kujaku finds out why he was chosen, and discovers his hidden powers and forgotten past. Deep within Kujaku lies an incredible power, a power he barely understands.

— *Exorcist's Apprentice*

Peacock King: Spirit Warrior © 1994 Ogino Makoto / Shueisha Inc./Pony Canyon / Pioneer LDC, Inc. English Subtitled version © 1997 Central Park Media Corporation.

The Ultimate Fighter

The Shin Shin Kai School claims to teach the most powerful karate style in the world. Champions of Karate Tournament usually come from this school. The school is bannered by Grandmaster Orochi Doppo (aka the Giant and rumored to have killed a tiger with his bare hands).

The 18th Annual Full Contact Karate Tournament held at the Tokyo Budokan, dominated by Shin Shin Kai students. In the midst of all these, a mysterious white belt, who signed in as a public entry, advances to the finals with a perfect KO record. Same as his finals opponent, Shin Shin Kai Senior Student Suwedo. Orochi sees the talent of the white belt and assumes he has had experience in the Underground Fighting League.

Hanma Baki: fighter. As light as a feather and as fierce as a wounded tiger. A complete mystery. No one knows where he came from or where he learned his unique fighting style. But he knows a lot. He knows all the fighting styles and all its moves, techniques and weaknesses. Make your first move, he'll know how to block it. He can defeat an opponent with a single blow. Blink and it's all over.

The Underground Fighting League: secretly built underneath Tokyo Dome, no weapons, no rules. Hanma Baki joined the Underground Fighting League to try and surpass his father, Hanma "the Ogre" Yujiro, known as "the strongest creature on earth". He is his father's son and with his unique fighting style, which is unlike those of other existing schools, he becomes the youngest champion in the 300-year history of the Underground Fighting League. His whole body is covered in battle scars.

How did it all start? Red-haired Baki was notorious. Ever wanting to be like his father, he once went up against 100 opponents while he was still in middle school. He took out 37 of them. In his quest to be the best, he trains. He rarely loses. He has met or bested some of Japan's and the world's top fighters like man-mountain Hanayama Kaoru, nerve-ripper Shinogi Kosho and boxing champion Yuri Tchaikovsky.

What will happen next?

— Tito Ortiz

Criador Baki | The Ultimate Fighter © TAGAKI KEISUKE/AKITA SYOTEN • FREE WILL





film
loop

"Do you believe a man can fly?"

— Lex Luthor



ure, men can fly. What I wanna know is... if Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were still alive, what would they think of the latest reincarnation of the last son of Krypton?

Because in this latest reissue, there's still no blue and red cape in sight, no championing yet of the causes of truth, justice and the American way and still no leaping over tall buildings in a single bound. Just an awkward teenager named Clark Kent and hints of the greatness that is to come.

THE BIRTH OF A SUPERHERO

It began as a sensational idea. Childhood buddies and sci-fi pioneers, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster dreamt of a character who came from a dying planet, could bounce bullets off his chest as well as leap 40 feet high. They called their creation, Superman.

Man of Steel he may be, he didn't always radiate a very good first impression. Joe and Jerry shopped around for a publisher to breathe 2-dimensional life to Supes but they were turned down repeatedly. One editor even told Jerry, "The trouble with this kid, is that it's too sensational. Nobody would believe it."

Until printer Max Gaines approached Harry Donenfeld, owner of *Detective Comics*, offering to print his titles for him. Problem was, Detective Comics didn't have that much comic books to sustain Gaines' presses. One editor suggested that they should serialize *Superman*. Joe and Jerry were then asked to rework their story a bit and on June 1938, *Action Comics* 1 debuted on the newsstands. It contained 13-pages of action-packed Superman exploits.

From the serial that nobody wanted, Superman has evolved into the epitome of what a superhero should be. Supes has repeatedly made leaps from the paneled page to the big screen (Christopher Reeves, anyone?) to pop music ("I'm more than a bird / I'm more than a plane...") and of course, to the boob tube (George Reeve, Dean Cain and now, *Smallville's* Tom Welling).

BACK TO THE FURNACE: REMOLDING THE MAN OF STEEL

by Maria Verona C Eloriaga

WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANY MORE

Smallville, subtitled "*Superman: The Early Years*", focuses on young Clark who has yet to adjust to his super powers and the newly-disclosed fact that he is from another planet. Struggling to fit in, he tries to hide his superhuman abilities from his friends, among them his crush Lana Lang (Kristen Kreuk) and his wealthy buddy Lex Luthor (Michael Rosenbaum).

Smallville is also the name of a quaint town in Kansas where it all happens. In this retelling, Superman's spaceship apparently brings with it to Earth, chunks from the dead planet Krypton. These fragments fall as a meteor shower on the town. So now, there are hundreds of these curious little meteorites (kryptonite, as we know it) littering the fields of *Smallville*.

Kryptonite, in this version, seems to affect not only Clark but humans as well. While the rocks weaken Clark, they seem to give humans special abilities (flame powers, electric sparks shooting out of appendages, stuff like that). So weird, freaky things happen all the time in *Smallville*. All of them a wee bit too dangerous for comfort. So when Clark finds out that he is actually from another planet, appearing on this Earth on exactly the same date as the meteor showers, he feels a sense of guilt — because in a way, he brought the dangerous meteorites with him.



From the serial that nobody wanted, Superman has evolved into the epitome of what a superhero should be.

All the kryptonite in this series are green. I know that in the comic, there are different types (green ones, red ones, blue ones), each of them producing a different effect on Superman. Unless the other kinds appear in later episodes (in which case, I haven't seen them yet), I think it's safe to say that all the kryptonite in this series are green (crossing my fingers, hoping that I am right).

GROWING PAINS

After watching the premiere episode, a *Questor* artist remarked that the show is like *Dawson's Creek*, only with superpowers. Indeed, the show is rife with angst and peer pressure and youthful rebellion and all the things teenagers face. That and more. Clark also has to deal with superpowers which are beginning to manifest themselves.

Take for example, something like impressing the girl next door. That's something almost every teenaged guy went through, right? Imagine a youthful Man of Steel facing such a predicament. In one of the episodes, it is revealed that Lana Lang's favorite pendant

is actually made of kryptonite, which explains why Clark is always so weak-kneed around her, literally (and everybody thought it was just plain geekiness). Now, Lana loses the necklace and Clark gets a hold of it. His dilemma: does he return the necklace and make the girl he likes the happiest person on Earth, or does he keep it locked in a lead box so he can get close to her? Ah, the perils of a superhero in love!

The young actors, for me, is quite an unexpected casting coup. Tom Welling is delightfully innocent-looking, convincing as the young, ever-championing-the-causes-of-good Superman. Even when he grins in pleasure as he accidentally activates his x-ray vision on a stripping Lana Lang, he looks adorably wholesome.

On the other hand, Michael Rosenbaum exudes a lot of charm even if he is sans hair, as the role of young Lex Luthor calls for. Even better, he can affect a sort of quiet rage and subtle ruthlessness when the scenes call for it, perfectly believable as a future criminal mastermind.

My own initial observation about the show is that it has been given the *Buffy / Roswell* treatment. That is, pretty-looking teens put in creepy / weird situations. Indeed, the baddies Clark battles are not supervillains. Not the super-powered bad guys we see in the comics, foes worthy of a superman (he ain't Superman yet, gotta keep this in mind), rather, they're a bunch of losers that gain weird abilities after being exposed to kryptonite. An insect man, a guy who controls flames and a boy who spews electricity are just some of the villains Clark has tangled with. They're sort of like the beings FBI Agents Mulder and Scully would go after. Could there be a connection? Maybe, maybe not. But *Smallville*'s executive producer David Nutter's credits include a previous stint in, you guessed it, the *X-Files*.

Some purists love Smallville. Some don't. While new fans are amused and exclaim, "Ah! So that's how it happened," hardcore fans shake their heads and mutter angrily, "That's NOT how it happened!"

Speaking of the X-Files, **Mark Snow**, who handled the music for that show, is also in charge of the soundtrack for this one. The musical score of Smallville is very much like that of the Creek and Buffy and Roswell. Each teen travail is accompanied in the background by the strummings of bands such as The Calling, Weezer and Gorillaz. The better to entice teen viewers with.

This doesn't come as that big a surprise. Smallville comes from the *WB* network. The same network which produced, you guessed it right again, Dawson's Creek and initially, Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Roswell.

"S" MARKS THE SPOT

Some purists love Smallville. Some don't. While new fans are amused and exclaim, "Ah! So that's how it happened," hardcore fans shake their heads and mutter angrily, "That's not how it happened!" before reciting a litany of how things really went down in Supes' life as according to the comic. These same purists feel that Smallville is a desecration of the Superman mythos.

Actually, I think that the people who conceptualized Smallville are big fans of the Man of Steel themselves. And like the true fans that they are, they're having fun with the Superman mythology. Even dropping hints — almost like inside jokes — about elements comprising the myth. For example, the Smallville Clark spends his spare time in a part of the Kent barn which houses his telescope. His dad, Jonathan, refers to this place as Clark's "fortress of solitude". If you remember the first Superman movie with Christopher Reeve, the fortress of solitude actually refers to Superman's hideaway located at the Antarctic.

Other hints of the superman Clark is to become include: his being picked out by football jocks, painting a big red 'S' on his chest and him being mostly decked in reds and blues, which are the colors of the superman costume. There is even a scene where he wears a red towel around his neck but it is tucked under a jacket. A glimpse perhaps, of the billowy red cape he is to don in the future?

Now, if I were to answer my previous question — that is, if Siegel and Shuster were alive, what would they think of Smallville? I think they'd be mighty pleased. Even after more than 60 years, their creation is still alive and kicking. Superman continues to evolve throughout the ages, still managing to capture the imaginations of different generations of audiences despite the varying tastes and evolving styles.

Yup, they'd be mighty pleased indeed.

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The History of Superhero Comic Books
http://www.geocities.com/Almons_8580/noframes.html

Club Zero
<http://warehouse35.digitalice.com/ClubZero/>

Smallville, Superman: The Early Years premiered October 2001 on the WB Network. Tolin / Robbins Productions, Warner Bros. Television. Smallville™ & ©2002 the WB Network





STORY:

MARIA VERONA C. ELORIAGA

ART:

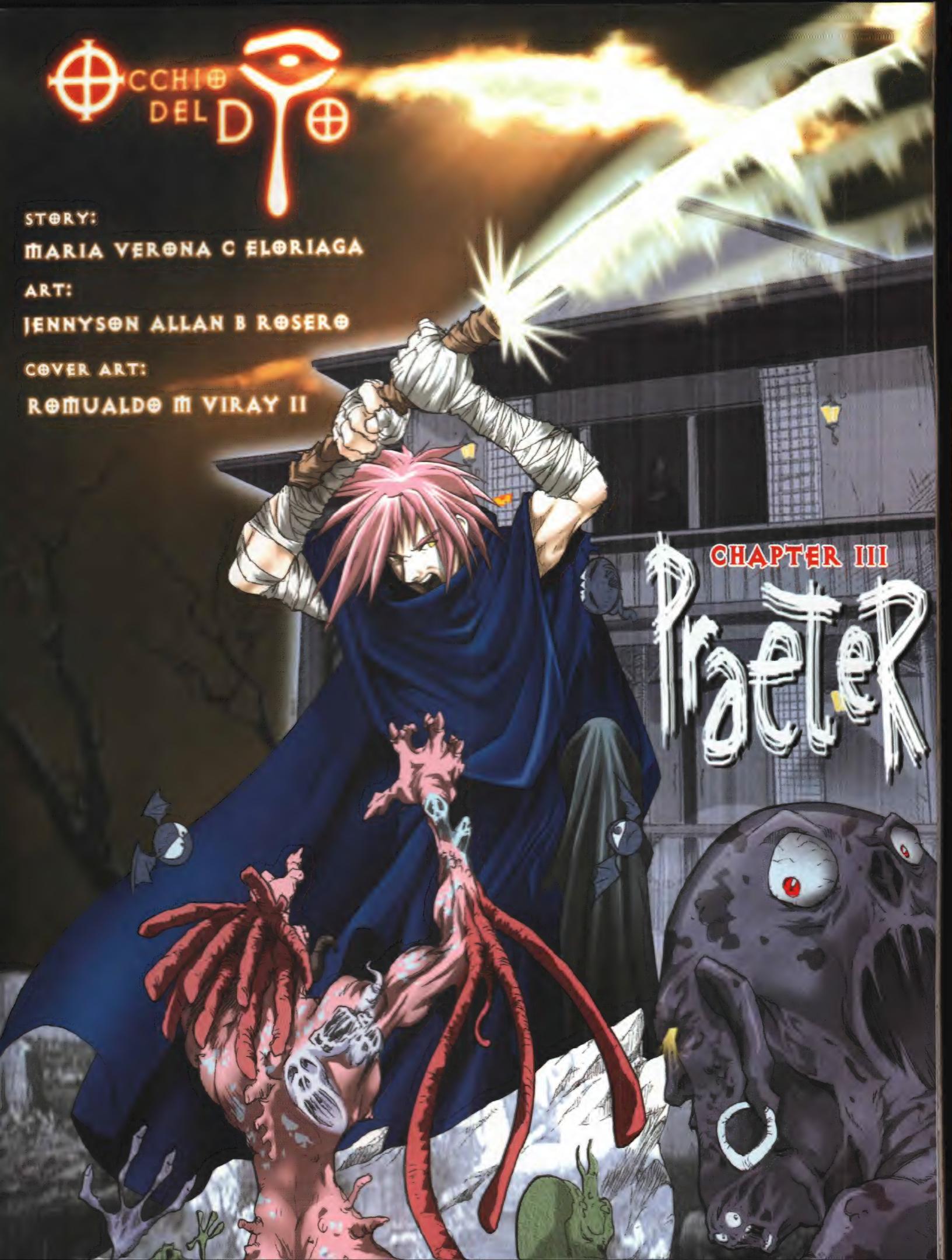
JENNYSON ALLAN B. ROSERO

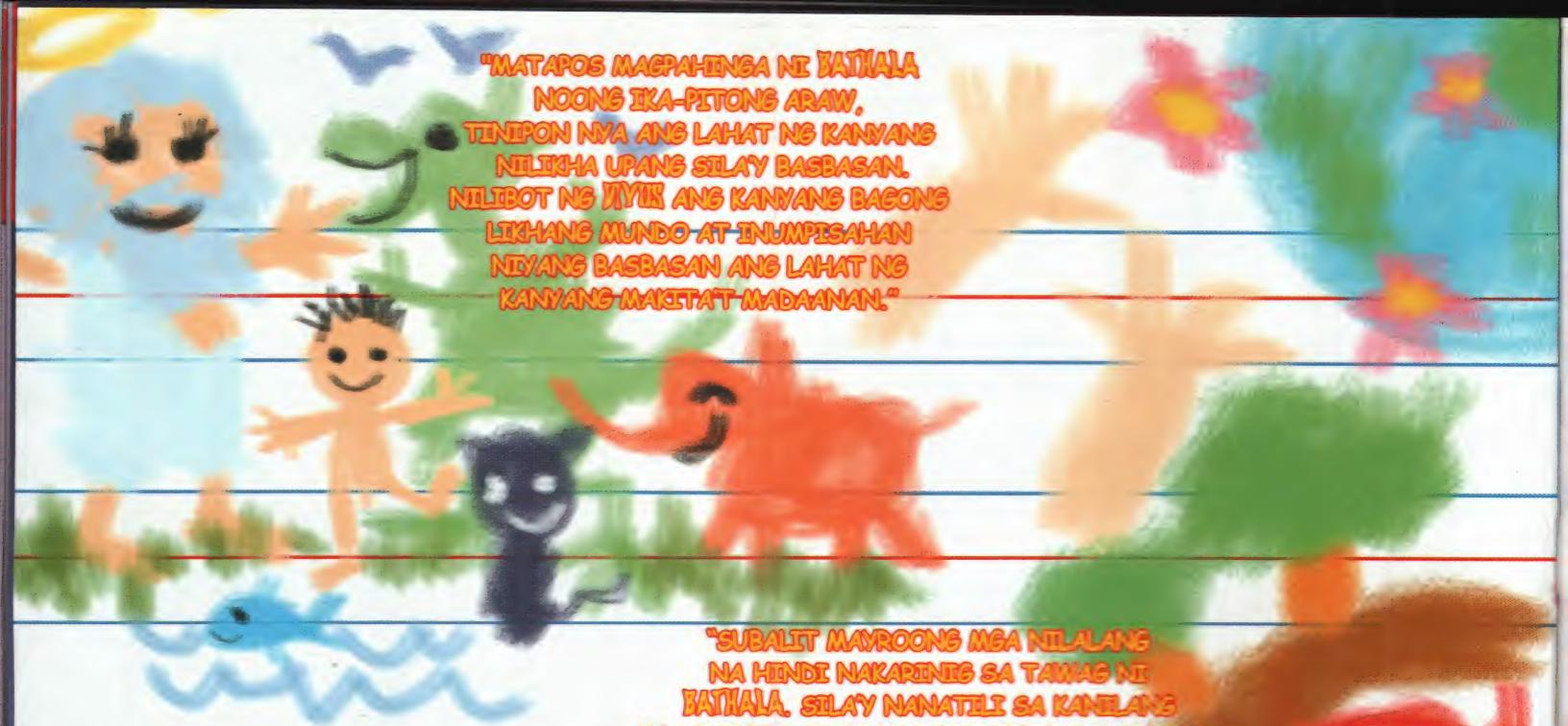
COVER ART:

REMUALDO M. VIRAY II

CHAPTER III

Praeter

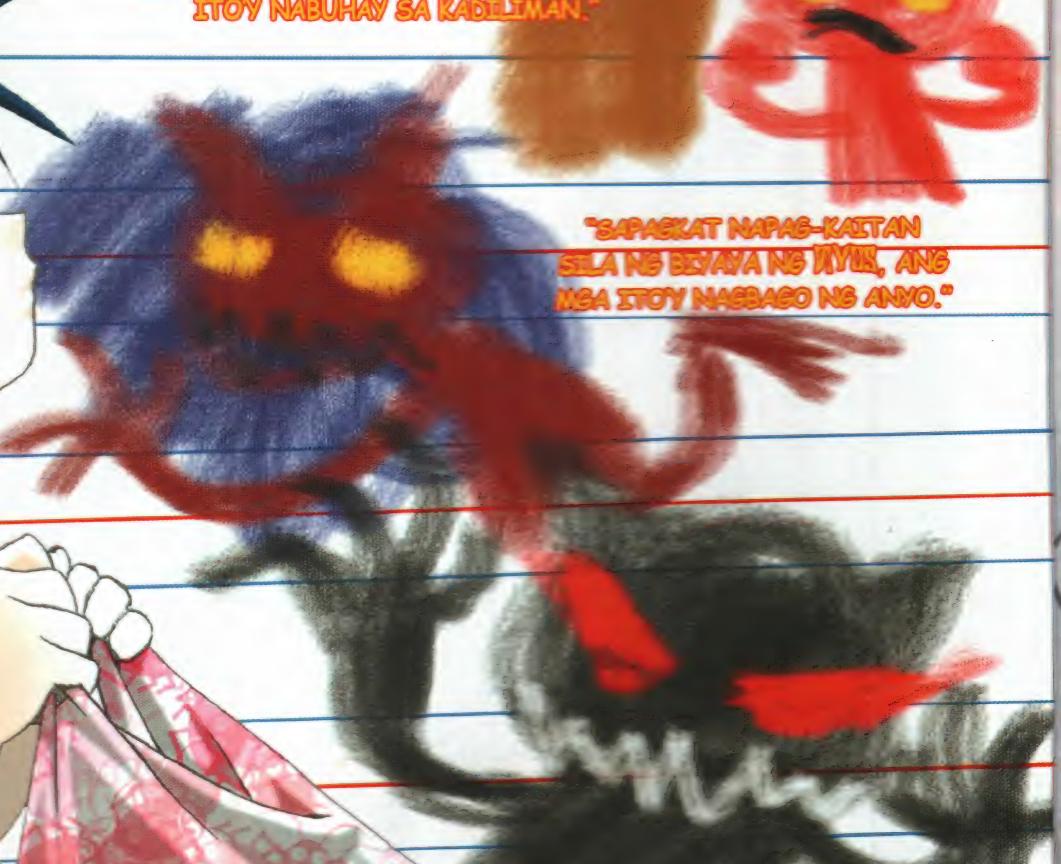




"MATapos maCPahinga ni BATIAlA
NOONG IKA-PITONG ARAW,
TINIPON NYA ANG LAHAT NG KANYANG
NILIKHA UPANG SILAY BASBASAN.
NLIBOT NG JIVIS ANG KANYANG BACONG
LIKhang mundo at inumpisahan
NIYANG BASBASAN ANG LAHAT NG
KANYANG MAKETAT-MADAANAN."



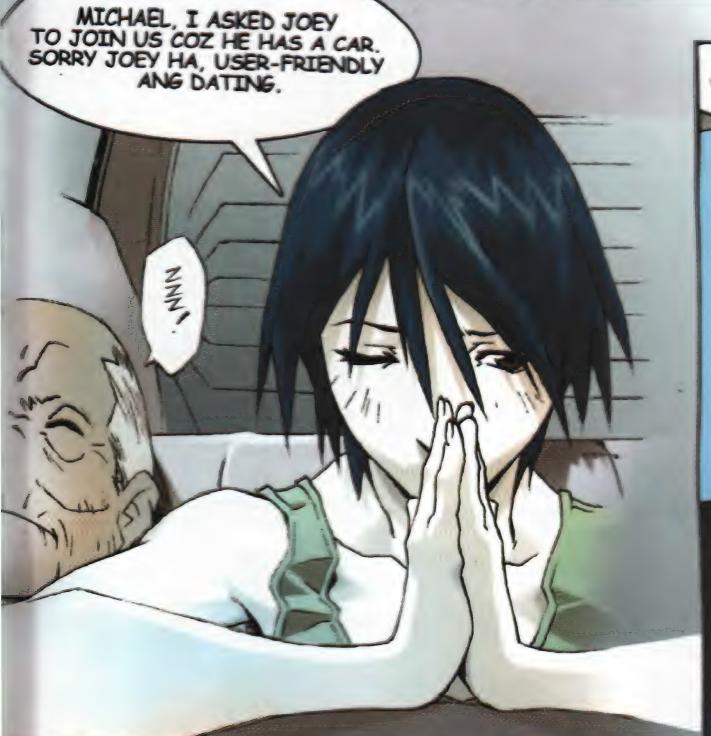
"SUBALIT MAYROONG MGA NILALANG
NA HINDI NAKARINIG SA TAWAS NI
BATIAlA. SILAY NANATELI SA KANILANG
MGA LUNGEA AT SA KASAWIAN PALAB, AY HINDI
NAKATANGGAP NG BASBAS NG TAWAS NI
JIVIS. MAGMULA NOON, ANG MGA NILALANG NA
ISTOY NABUHAY SA KADILIMAN."



"SAPAKAT NAPAG-KAITAN
SELA NG BIVAYA NG JIVIS, ANG
MGA ISTOY NASBAGO NG ANYO."



"SILA ANG PINAGMULAN NG MGA
TINATAWAG NATENS ASWANG,
HUMITMAN AT MELANG."



AND WHY DOES THIS OTHER GIRL HAVE TO BE INVOLVED AS WELL?

KASI NAMAN CARLOTTA, HINDI MO KAMIINI-INTRODUCING MAAYOS. SWEETHEART, I'M SHIRLEY AND I GO WHEREVER JOEY GOES COZ WE'RE GIRLFRIENDS!

YAWN!

snap

ACTUALLY, YOU'RE THE ODDBALL. WHY ARE YOU HERE, AGAIN?

WELL, AS BIZARRE AS THIS SOUNDS, MICHAEL IS A KNIGHT. AS IN, THE MEDIEVAL, ROMANTIC KIND. AND HE SAYS HE NEEDS MY HELP COZ I HAVE POWERS TO DISTINGUISH REAL PEOPLE FROM MONSTER-TYPES MASQUERADEING AS PEOPLE. ONLY, I DON'T FEEL ANY WEIRD POWERS.

YOU DO HAVE IT. YOU USED TO SEE ALL KINDS OF FALLEN WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, YOU'VE JUST FORGOTTEN HOW TO USE YOUR INNER VISION.

SO FEELING BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER KA NA NGAYON, BRU? DI HAMAK NAMANG MAS KAMUKHA KO SI SARAH MICHELLE KESA YO, NO!

STOP THE CAR,
IHO, este...IHA!





OKAY, WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE AGAIN? IT'S SO ICKY HERE, HAI!

ASSUMING THAT I ACTUALLY ENJOY BEING SCARED SILLY, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND THE THING? IF IT INVOLVES SPLITTING UP, I'M GOING WITH MICHAEL!

MERON DAW KASING NAGPAPAKITANG PUGOT DINE. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD PLACE FOR TEMPLAR HERE TO START HIS QUEST.

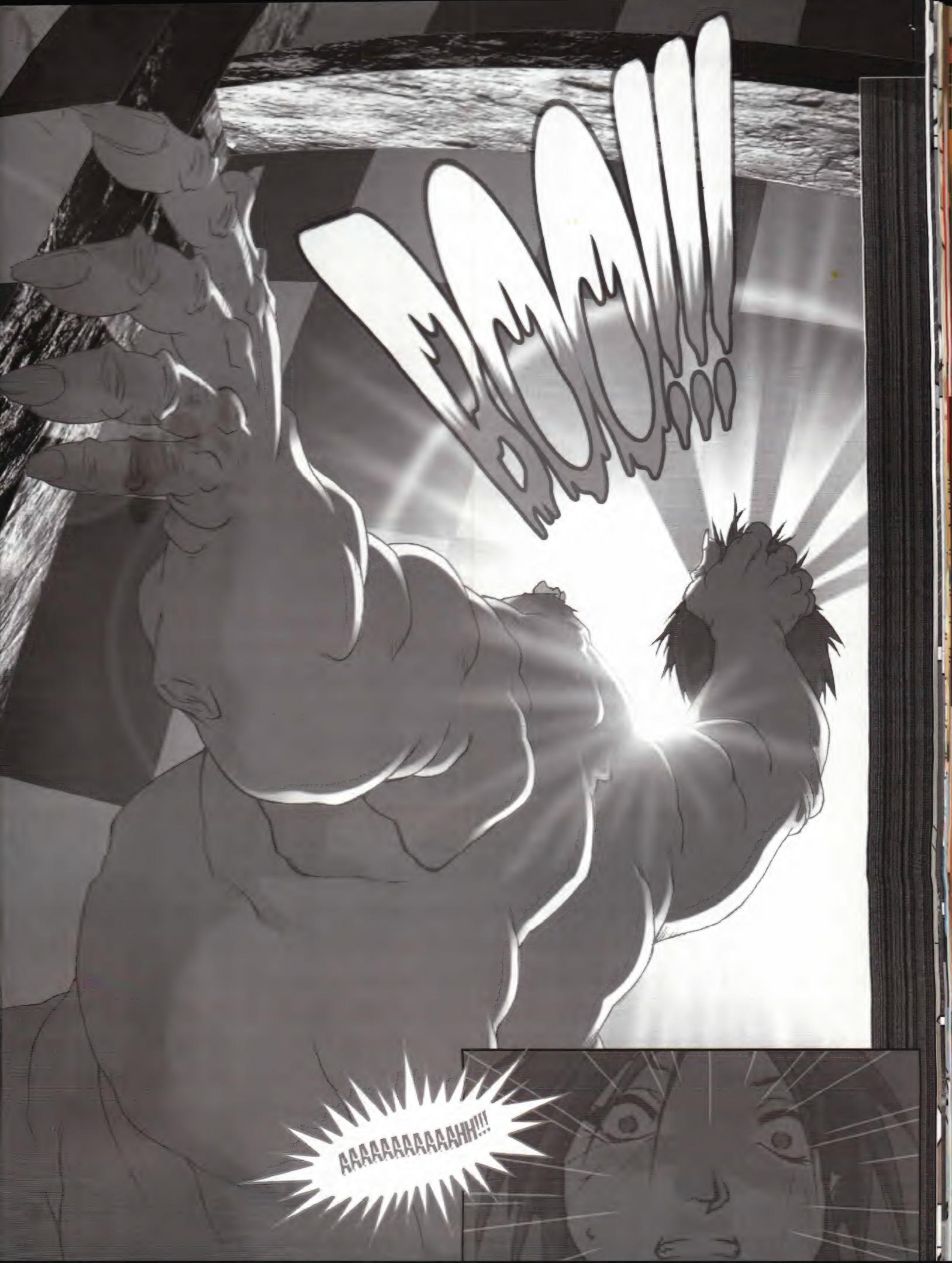
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO DO THIS? I'M STILL A BIT UNSURE ABOUT THE "POWER" I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE. AND THIS PLACE... IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

DON'T WORRY, THE PUGOT IS HARMLESS. ALL IT DOES IS SCARE PEOPLE.

OH YEAH THAT'S DEAL BREAKIN' TIME

WE DON'T HAVE TO
COMPLY EVEN IF WE DON'T
WANT TO
SPLIT UP THE
CITY





AAAAAAAHHH!!!



NOT SO FAST, FALLEN.

CHARLIE, IT SHOULD BE
ABLE TO UNDERSTAND YOU

fwapp

fwapp

EHEHEHEHE... WE COME IN PEACE?

ASK HIM WHY THERE'S A
SUDDEN INCREASE IN FALLEN ACTIVITY
THESE PAST FEW YEARS.

EHRM, I DONT THINK IT WANTS TO COOPERATE.

SHAKKT!

ngatog ngatog

ER... HIS VOCAL CHORDS
HAVE BEEN SEVERED...

USE BLOOD TO
WRITE, WHY DONTCHA?
MORBID AND GROSS!

GGLUURG!
GU—URK!

splitit

ROME, 12th CENTURY A.D.

[WELL, MONSIEUR DE PAYNE.
YOU ESCAPED WITH YOUR LIFE BUT
WHAT OF THE MISSION?]

[YES... PROOF THAT THE ARK IS
— OR WAS — STILL INTACT. BUT
WHAT OF THE REST OF IT?]

[] - TRANSLATED FROM LATIN

[AS I HAVE TOLD THE NUNCIO, WE WERE
ATTACKED. SOME... THING WAS BURIED ALONG WITH
THE ARK. IT SEEMED LIKE IT HAD BEEN THERE FOR A
LONG TIME. AND WE... WE... UNLEASHED IT!]

[IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE A
FAILURE. I HAVE ONE LAST MISSION
FOR YOU. I AM ASSIGNING YOU TO
OUR PRIORY IN ENGLAND WHERE YOU
ARE TO TRAIN OTHER WARRIOR-MONKS.
IN THE MEANTIME, I SHALL SEND A NEW
REGIMENT TO THE HOLY LAND. THERE
ARE PILGRIMAGES THERE EVERY MONTH.
WE CAN'T HAVE OUR WEALTHY MERCHANTS
THINK THAT IT ISN'T SAFE TO TRAVEL.]

[WHAT OF THE CREATURE,
YOUR HOLINESS?]

[AH, YES. WELL, WE CAN'T LEAVE ANY
MESSES, CAN WE? YOU CLEAN IT UP. SEE TO IT
THAT THE CREATURE IS VANQUISHED. I AM HEREBY
STRIPPING YOU OF YOUR MONK STATUS AND YOUR
VOWS. GO AND PROCREATE. IF YOU CAN'T ELIMINATE
THE EVIL ONE, SEE TO IT THAT YOUR SON DOES
OR YOUR SON'S SON. IF IT TAKES YOUR ENTIRE
LINEAGE, SO BE IT. IT IS YOUR BURDEN
TO CARRY AND YOURS ALONE.]

SO WHO, OR WHAT, THE HECK IS THIS SIMON DUDE?

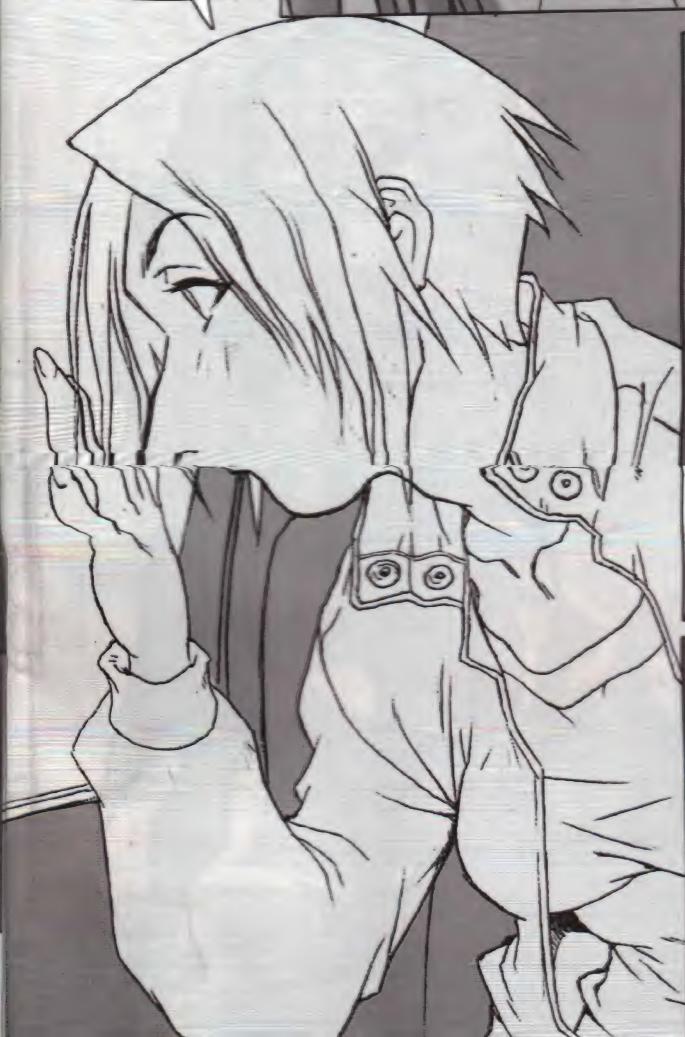


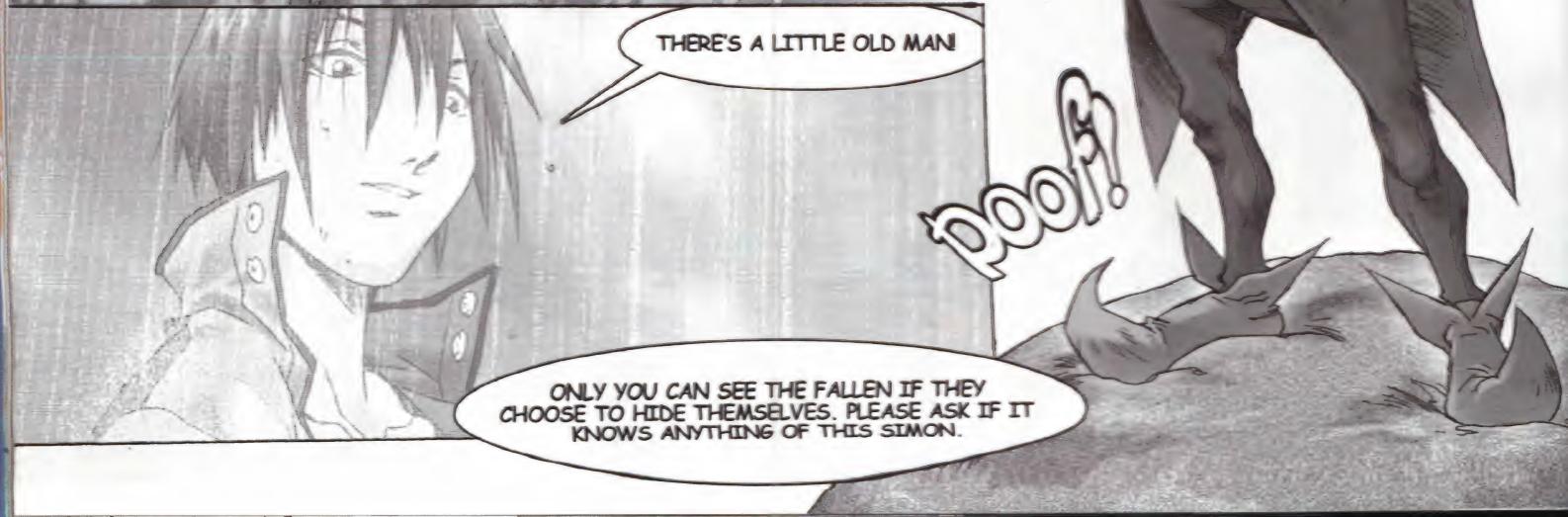
WELL, WE COULD PASS THROUGH BALETE DRIVE. OR GO CHECK ON ANY BALETE TREE, FOR THAT MATTER. OR WE CAN GO TO A SCHOOL, EVERY SCHOOL HAS ITS SPOOK... blah blah blah...



THE WRETCHED CREATURE CAN'T GIVE US ANYTHING MORE THAN A NAME. OLD MAN, WHERE ELSE CAN WE ENCOUNTER OTHER FALLEN?

froossh





TABI-TABI PO, TATANG!

ABA, MAGANDANG INTENG! HALINAT SALUHAN MO AKO. MATAGAL NG PANAHON ANG NAKALIPAS MULA NANG AKO'Y NAKTSALAMUHA SA ISANG DILAG.

HINDI PO AKO GUTOM, TATANG.

MAY ITATANONG LANG PO KAMI.

INTENG, WALANG LIBRE SA MUNDO. KUNG MAY NAIS KANG MALAMAN SA AKIN, MAY KAPALIT ITO.

IF HE'S TRYING TO OFFER YOU FOOD, REFUSE IT. YOU'LL BE UNDER HIS SWAY IF YOU EAT WHAT HE OFFERS.

SIGE PO, WALA NAMAN KAMING MAIBABAYAD SA INYO. ALIS NA LANG PO KAMI.

SANDALI LAMANG. SIMPLE LANG NAMAN ANG HINTHILING KO SA INYO. SALUHAN LANG AKO NG KAHT ISA MAN LANG SA INTYONG MGA MAGAGANDANG DALAGA.

rip...phwiing!

SIGE PO, PAYAG NA KAMI. MAY ALAM PO BA KAYO TUNGKOL KAY SIMON?

ANO? SIMON BA KAMO? NAKU, INTENG. HINDI MO ALAM KUNG ANONG PINASOK MO. KALIMUTAN INTYO NA KUNG ANO MAN ANG BINABALAK NTINYO. DAHLIL SI SIMON, MATAGAL NANG NAGGINGITNGIT YAN. SA PACKAWARI NTYA ORAS NA PARA SA PAGHIGANTI. AT TYON ANG KANYANG NAIS. ANG MAGHIGANTI KAY BATHALA.

ANO PO ANG IBIG NIYONG SABIHIN?

WALA NA AKONG IBANG ALAM TUNGKOL DIYAN. ORAS NA PARA PACBIGYAN MO ANG AKING HILING.

Wa-pooof!

A... SIYA PO, TATANG! SIYA ANG PINAKAMAGANDA SA AMIN!

WHAT? WHAT?

IT WAS A PECULIAR APPROACH BUT I MUST SAY, YOU HANDLED THAT VERY WELL.

THANKS. BUT COMPARED TO ALL THE HAGGLING I DO IN THE TIYANGGE... WALANG SINABI YANG NUNO NA YAN!



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DREAMWINDER

Dreamwinder © Viray / TSP.

CHAPTER THREE: **RIGHT OF PASSAGE**



ALDIN VIRAY
STORY/PLOT
AND ART

IGOR CABBARB
SCRIPT/DIALOGUE
AND LETTERS

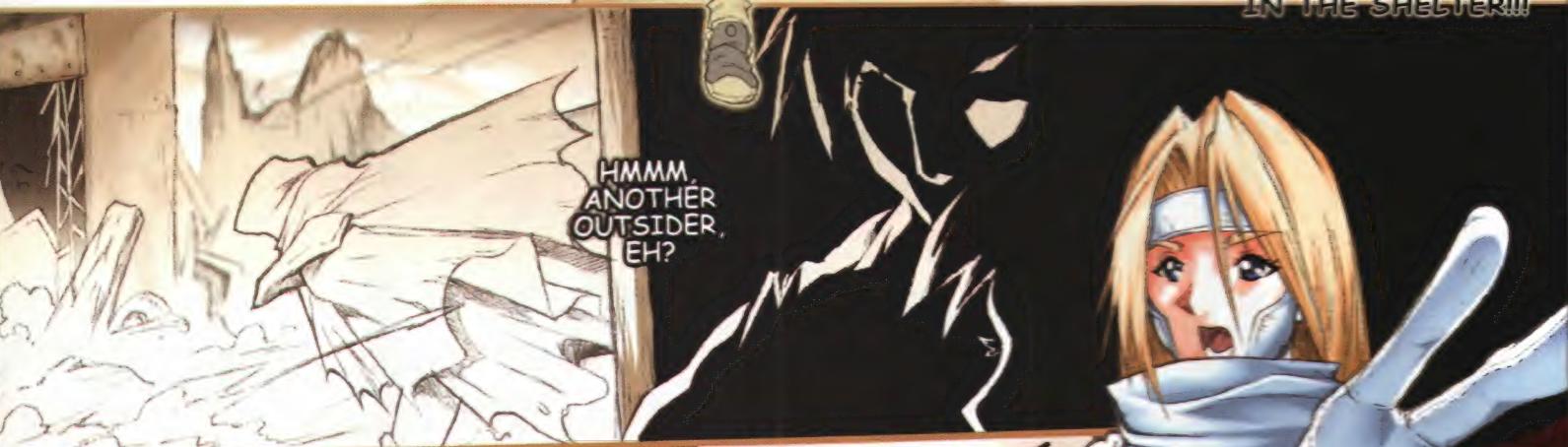
BAMBI ELORIACA
THE BIG CHIEF

SOMEONE IS APPROACHING FROM THE OUTLANDS!!!



OH MY!
THIS COULD ONLY
SPELL MORE TROUBLE
FOR THE TOWN!!!

QUICK! HIDE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE SHELTER!!!



HMM, ANOTHER OUTSIDER, EH?



PLEASE
STOP
RIGHT
THERE!!!

I AM THE GATEKEEPER OF THIS TOWN AND I ADVISE YOU NOT TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP FORWARD!!!



I AM
ON AN
ERRAND
OF MERCY...

NO... I MUST
INSIST THAT
YOU NOT TAKE
THIS PATH ON
YOUR ERRAND.

BUT ALL I
DESIRE IS
SAFE PASSAGE...



CRAAAA
CKKKKK



PSSST!



???



THE SKY IS
FALLING,
CHICKEN'
LITTLE!

I APOLOGIZE
FOR MY SISTER'S SOMEWHAT
UNPROVOKED ACTIONS...

JEEZ,
ANOTHER ONE?

BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE
TO BE TOO... HARSH!!!





ANG YABANG
NAMAN NITONG
ISANG ITO, A.



WAITAMNIT
KAPENG MAINIT...

INAKUP...



ATE AT!!



SEEMS WE'VE
STUMBLLED UPON SOME
CONFUSION HERE...

MAYBE SOME
EXPLANATION
IS IN ORDER.

SO THAT'S WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOU.

YES, THEN RETURO
FOUND ME.

HE TOOK CARE OF ME
SINCE I GOT THROWN OUT
OF THE CAR WHEN WE
COLLIDED WITH THE
MONSTER

WE'VE BEEN
TRAINING
FOR THE PAST
8 MONTHS...

...AND NOW...

...WE'RE HERE.

RETURO'S BEEN
GOOD TO ME...

JUST LIKE
A FATHER...

JUST
LIKE
DAD...

WHEN WE WERE ABOUT
TO HIT THE MONSTER,
I FOUND MYSELF FLOATING...

WHEN I OPENED MY EYES
I FOUND MYSELF HERE.
THEY SAID I WAS TOO WEAK
TO MOVE SO THEY
TOOK CARE OF ME.

I FOUND NEW FRIENDS
IN SASHA THE GATEKEEPER,
VICTOR AND HIS SISTER
ANITA.

THEY NURSED ME
BACK TO HEALTH.
THEN THINGS GOT
WEIRDER AFTER THAT.

I DISCOVERED
I HAD PYROMANCY
AND I HAVE HELPED
THEM DEFEND
THIS TOWN
SINCE THEN.

AT LEAST
I'VE ALREADY
FOUND YOU...

BUT HOW
ABOUT
MIYU?

AND
AINA?

SEEMS THE REUBENZ
SIBLINGS ARE HAVING
A HARD TIME WITH THIS
ERRANT OUTSIDER...

MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR
ME TO INTERVENE!

YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY
TOO MUCH ABOUT YOUR
COMRADES, GATEKEEPER...

WORRY ABOUT YOUR
PENDING DEFEAT
IN MY HANDS!!!

CAN'T WE TALK
ABOUT THIS OVER A CUP
OF PIPING HOT COFFEE?!?



MAYBE WE'LL BE ABLE TO
FIND MIYU AND AINA.
MAYBE AFTER THAT WE'LL
BE ABLE TO FIND OUR WAY
BACK HOME...



DREAMWINDER

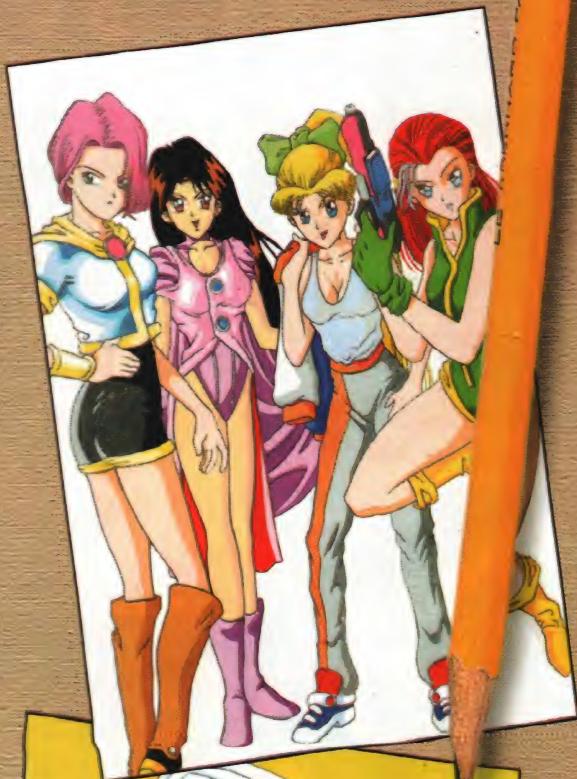
Dreamwinder © Viray / TSP.

I first conceptualized Dreamwinder in 1995. It had the title Chaos Moon and originally featured four sisters in a Sailormoon type storyline. The inspiration for the comic came after the release of the classic OAV series Blueseed. Most of my drawings for the characters were based on Yuzo Takada's designs which looked cool at the time. Who would have thought that after seven years, Dreamwinder would debut in the pages of the Philippines' premiere anime magazine.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the following people: Ms Bambi Eloriaga for trusting me enough to allow me to accomplish this project; Mr Larry Chan for his ever-encouraging show of support in what we do; Mr Igor Cabbab for correcting my spelling errors (nakakahiya); my good friend, my tungang, Jonnyson Russo, whose mere presence inspires the people around him to do their jobs a little bit better; and my lovable fellow Questor staffers who are always fun to be with.

And in case you're worried, Dreamwinder doesn't end here. To paraphrase one of my characters, "I've only begun to scratch the surface of the storyline. And there's a lot more in store for the characters. It's just the matter of when I would have the time or luxury to do this again." But as far as the past three issues were concerned, it was one hell of a joyride.

by:
ALDIT



doujin drawing board



Ralph Jim Kenia



Donna May Francisco

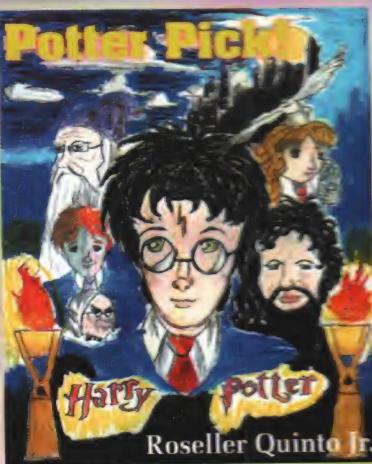


Carmela Jean Regala



Aldrin Anatada

Cloebs & Jenny de Asis



Roseller Quinto Jr.



Oliver Mirano



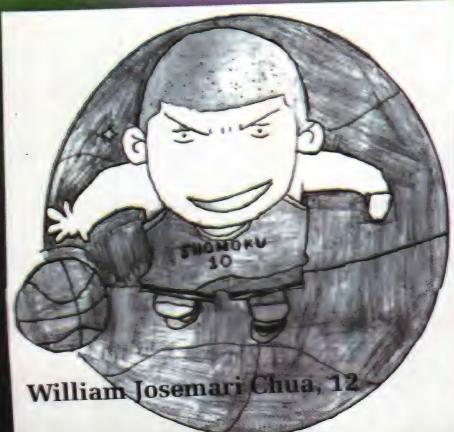
Erena Joy Bella



Patrick Esman



Arthur Angeles



William Josemari Chua, 12



Erwin Eliserio, 17

We here at **Questor** know how to appreciate talent. So get those creative juices flowing and show us your stuff. We encourage every fanboy and fangirl to send in their artwork (originals, don't trace over somebody else's drawings!) to **Doujin Drawing Board** c/o **Questor Magazine**, 206 Quadstar Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Your masterpieces should be no larger than 8 1/2" by 11". You can use pencils, crayons, markers, pen and ink, whatever works for you. As much as possible, try not to fold your artwork. Those folds give us a hard time, you know.

Those who want their works returned to them should send us a self-addressed stamped envelope with their entries. Oh, we can't process any entries sent via email at this time.

The best part is if you're good enough (or lucky enough), WE'RE GONNA GIVE YOU A PRIZE!



Christopher Cortez



D.A.C. 10/98

R. NIGAGE

H. M. SUI



Elvin Joefer Silva, 12



Ms. Dora Liza Narvas, 13



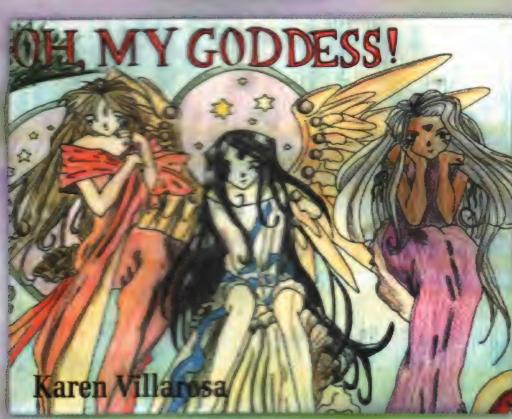
Kathleen, 14

Mega Man: Rayearth

Jikuu no yo ni



Mark Stephen Bonina



Karen Villarosa



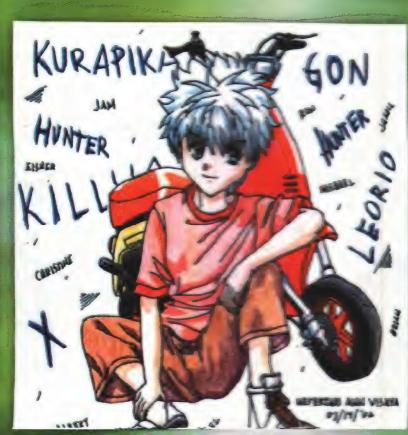
Riza Gasapao



Wily Rose Miradora



Lovelie Newcomer



KURAPIKA
GON
HUNTER
KILL
HUNTER
LUCIA
CAROLINE
X
JAM
ANTER
LEORIO
FELLA
REPERCUE AND VISION
02/01/99



Emmaluz Aguilar



Luisito Epino



chainmail

Lotsa mail! Lotsa mail! Lotsa mail! My body still hurts from playing too much basketball. But I'll live. Here's the mail! Old rules apply. 'Napay! 'Napay! 'Napay! Messages shortened to give equal chances for everyone to be heard. 'NA-PAY!!! ^_^

VCDay

Maganda ang labas ng issue nyo'ng may exclusive Lupin VCD, Pero marami ang nagre-act tungkol sa price nyang 250.00. Matagal akong nakabili tuloy. Naglalakad na lang ako pauwi para lang mabili iyon. Sana hanggang doon lang ang price to the end.

Marlon Borinaga

Bakit ganon??? Bakit may kasama pang VCD????? Buti na lang sakto nadala kong pera. Wag na lang Lupin III.

Shigure_no_Sukebe
(the inu of the Sohma clan)

Off all the anime that you could have put in a VCD, why Lupin III? When I saw this one, I just couldn't shell out the P250 just because it had a Lupin III VCD!!! ARGH!!!

Frustrated Anime Liker Guy

Great September issue. I like the new look. I also like the extra CD bundle. But is it the cause of the sudden price increase? 250 is a bit steep.

Tensaisarariman

I was going to say that it was a waste of money but then when I watched it it was really funny and I have to say WAW! AND GANDA! Thanx to you guys I learned not to judge anime by the way they are drawn.

Coincidental Look-alike ni Shizuku

Manga Season

Your new mangas *Noperrabo*, *Occhio del Dio*, and *Dreamwinder* are amazing! The art is really first-class, the English-Filipino language mix in ODD and DW give them a funny effect.

Shu_3533

I request for 3 mangas for 1 issue Because My Favorite Anime Magazine is *QUESTOR!!! WISH KO LANG!!!*

Lanexe29

Love the 2 new manga especially the Dreamwinder.

Pie

Of all your three new manga series, I really like Dreamwinder ^_. Ang cute ng mga characters saka yung plot ng story is great!!!

Fiel a.k.a Fujitaka_kinomoto

I just want to ask you guys that the dialog that the Ciru had in Noperrabo is "You are the guy that

doesn't die. You live seeing everyone around you get old and die." (I'm not sure if that's the exact dialog) Did you get that from Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles*? It sounds familiar because I'm a chronicle fan.

Hitokiri no Jigoku

I'm a follower of Vampire Chronicles too! But, no, It's not from there.

I lyk Dreamwinder sobra! It's lyk a ril Japanese manga!

Hu_u_pakeko

Occhio del Dio's story is cute... and I'm really looking forward to what will happen... the guy who will save the girl (forgot her name...), is cute. I also like Dreamwinder. I can see myself in the character of the middle child (again.. I forgot her name...)

Aprilkurapica

The middle girl is Ayee, the oldest is Ai, the youngest is Aina. The guy is Aldin, er, Returo pala.^_~

Si Hizuka ba yung nasa first issue ng Occhio del Dyo? Kamukha nya yung tatay nung bata eh. astig yung occhio del dyo, mukhang tadtad ng bakkaban. Ei! Tanong ko lang, ano'ng nangyari dun sa Nopperabo? One time appearance lang ba yun?

Eiji

Nope, that's not Hisoka. Nopperabo is only a one-shot at the moment. ^_~

Requests

pls.... feature *Gensomaden Saiyuki!!!!* pls... love you Hakkai!!!!!! thank you!!!!

Joy Lim

Dear Joy, your letter would have been okay had you not REPEATED THE WHOLE PARAGRAPH FOR MORE THAN 20 TIMES IN AN EMAIL!!!

Chop Suey Comments

Your logo is nice, but I still like the old one. The new manga's great too, but if you ask me, I still think *Gokitomo*'s superior to it. The WOW factor kinda isn't as great as the one in *Gokitomo*. About the CD, well, I'm not a fan of Lupin III, but how about giving us a copy of *Rurouni Kenshin's Seisouhen*?

Gerard "Keiya" Angeles
Editor in Chief of Siuala Magazine

Ur new ish is sooo cool... I mean very cool logo, the VCD and the content as well. Well ur new mangas are also cool especially Occhio Del Dio. ^_~

June D. (a.k.a. Kenshing and Tetsu)

*Sana wala na yung VCD na Lupin or sana ibang anime nalang. Sana isa-isa lang ang paggawa ng manga kase ang onti nalang ng na-ppture nyo. Bat ang mahal naman ng anniv ish nyo??? Sana i-feature nyo next ish yung **Inu Yasha**...*

shikinka rubetteson

April 02

1. Your logo renewed. Big deal, it's just a logo anyway. I like the golden one better.
 2. Cyberpunk article has tons of info but as usual no article of yours can not have repeated anime's that really pisses me off. Sooooo redundant.
 3. The dudette page, why feature Motoko??? Almost everything about her is unidentified.
 4. Why am I excited to see 2 no. 9????? Nopperabo is the sole reason but sadly I didn't saw it, not a brief mentioning of it nor it's shadow. Why???? Nopperabo is like Gokitomo, very unique, that is why I had waited so patiently on what's gonna happen next but I never recall seeing the faceless heroine and Maur. Why cut it off??? It has a lot (tons of) potential. Nopperabo has both the nice artwork and the nice story.
 5. Occhio del Dio did not leave that much of a big impression unlike Gokitomo and Nopperabo. The story however didn't made me crave for more but I would stick around until it ends to see the outcome. Knowing Bambi's work, it must be special.
 6. Dreamwinder, I didn't like. Both the story and the artwork. Why?? Too girly pinky girly !!!! Ya kno watta mean???? Mr Viray's work is better in black and whites and dark gloomy colors than pink complete with cherry blossoms.

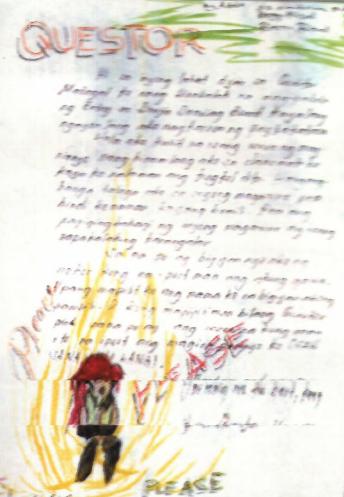
Killua zoldick (29)

1. Okay. But check out the logo last ish. We were able to do something with it which we weren't able to do with the old logo.
 2. You must have missed the whole point of the article. It was made not to introduce new series but to offer a survey of the cyberpunk anime genre.
 3. Why Motoko? Because of cyberpunk.
 4. Nopperabo really was meant initially as a one-shot. Maybe there'll be another in the near future.

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QUESTOR

It is a very bad sign in Guadalupe
Metlito to ever download or copywriting
of Enero ni Diogenes diwata Raymundo
Cognac, who also has his own Raymundo
With the help of the young men, they
try to recruit any friend like themselves
because they are very popular and
kind because it's their kind. But they
try to recruit or copywriting of many
people because it's their kind.



5. It is special, you'll see.

6. Really? Someone liked his work colored more than gray.

Can you guys slash your price a little cause this issue made me go over my budget (time to set up a new pie chart).

Comment: I feel that your articles are getting less and cause I think that you guys are heading for the comic industry (w/c is not your territory)! ^_~ Your answer: It is due to increasing popular demand. Simple, ne?

Flarecca

Not our territory? Hmmmm. Really now...

Public Service

It doesn't matter whether you're an otaku no anime or not. The important is to meet friends not only here in Philippines but also across the globe. Write to:

Heiwa
E-31 Jusmag Area
Fort Bonifacio

Anyone here want to be my tomodachi? Kindly pls.
email Me @ Karen12animeouhi88a@hotmail.com!!
Karen-Chan A.K.A Anime Ouh...

I'm looking for a *CardCaptor Sakura* card collector who wants to trade CCS Bandai Cardass Masters. If you do, please contact me at 0917-4849757 or mailto:pinay_otaku17@yahoo.com.

OHAYOU! im luking 4 an anime fan txtmate. pls txt me at dis # 09198913486. by d way, im *Battousai*, from Batangas. ARIGATO GOZAIMASU! ~

Igor's Advice Corner

I'm just wondering...is it true that your favorite anime characters reflect your personality??? Like in my case for example, my fave characters are Soujiro Seta, Kamatari, Nagi Naoe (*Weiss Kreuz*), Nuriko, Dilandou, Ray (*Shinhakenden*).... If you have noticed all of my fave anime chars are either psychos, woman-who-is-actually-man and the vise-versa. They say that it just shows that I'm weird too???

Fuuko Kirisawa

^_ ^ Actually some say your fave character either reflects your personality, what you want to be OR the exact opposite

See you all next month!



watashi
tachi



Tissue Paper:

by Bambi Eloriaga

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Ah, the horrors we have seen! Beware, you may be the next victim! Beware of... the tissue!





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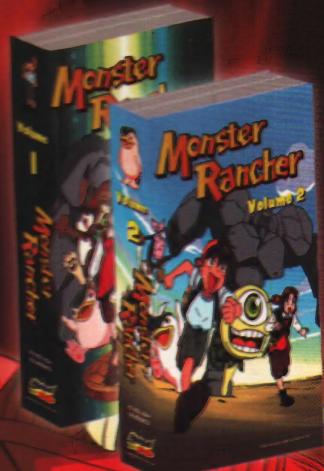
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